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EXCLUSIVE MATCH REPORTS



You will notice that this week's edition of 'Soccer Weekly' as most of you know it, is number 801. If you've been a reader since Australian Soccer Weekly began in March 1980, then you have been through 800 previous editions.

A quick calculation tells you that at one a week there should have been a few more. In fact the paper used to close down over the Christmas period for six weeks. This was because the National League was a winter competition until the late 1980s.

Association Football goes on 52 weeks of the year in Australia now, so ABSW must also keep going. In fact there's overlap between the Ericsson Cup and the State Leagues especially in Autumn.

Amongst the Editors, such well known names as David Jack and Keith Gilmour spring to mind. The late David Jack was the son of the 1930s Arsenal and England star of the same name. His most famous trademark was his smoking pipe and he was the first Editor.

Keith Gilmour is living in retirement at Pennant Hills a north western suburb of Sydney. Keith's gentleness and calmness were his greatest assets.

Tom Anderson, the fiery former Scotsman, occasionally seen on SBS TV, had a period in charge which proved very interesting.

Prior to yours truly, Anthony Rainieri occupied the Editor's chair for a couple of years. The mid 20s Anthony was one of the paper's youngest Editors.

Well known TV personality, Andy Paschilidis started at ABSW straight from school as a copy boy. He studied at night for a career in radio which began at 2GB.

Brad Earl, now Editor of the Blacktown Advocate kicked off as Sub Editor at ABSW before a short stint as Editor.

Production Techniques
In 1980 the paper used a cut and paste technique. This method is very labour intensive. The publication day was Wednesday each week. Photographs were simply 'cut in' to the page. It all worked and led to the first national Soccer paper.

Prior to 1980 NSW was served by the green paper 'Soccer World'. There were similar publications in the other states.

The backing of Australian-Greek businessman, Theo Skalkos was and still is a vital ingredient in the longevity of ABSW.

Today's technology allows the soccer paper to be fully electronically compiled. Photographs and logos are scanned in to the computer system. The whole is brought together page by page with a piece of software which is very much an industry standard.

The four colour pages start as any

size picture or photograph. Required text is added after the subjects have been sent back on the local Area Network (LAN) to the 'page compiler' computer. The front, back and two middle pages are then sent to a 'printer' which produces four colour transparencies of each page.

The black and white pages are 'made up' into groups of four and each group is photographed. The transparencies and negatives go to the printing press and ABSW comes out ready for despatch to the distributors. You then go to your newsagent on Tuesday morning pay \$2.50 and start reading.

Further advances are imminent, with contributors soon able to key (or type) their pieces into their computers. They then will 'dial' i.e. key in a facsimile number, and through a device 'modem' connect to ABSW's system at Marrickville. In a few moments their piece of work will be available to put onto the designated page.

You may have found this editorial boring but hopefully it has given you an insight into how the techniques used to produce the Australian and British Soccer Weekly are under constant change.

The staff, at ABSW, no matter who they are, will no doubt endeavour to bring you the best coverage of the World Game in Australia long into the future.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The times they are a changing

Just as change is a constant part of life, that is the certainly the case with Soccer Australia. Surely never in the history of the game in this country, which stretches back until as early as 1880, has the game received such widespread media coverage as during the last five months.

David Hill, love him or loath him, has dramatically raised the World Games profile in Australia. Newspaper proprietors Television moguls, radio entrepreneurs are all wanting to know about the latest goings on with this sleeping giant of a sport.

The coup attained with the signing of Terry Venables as Australia's coach has already and will continue to have a dramatic impact on the game's profile. For that alone we must all be delighted with Hill's effort.

There will be some who prefer to keep the game as their personal fiefdom, to restrain it within its previous known boundaries. There is news for those reactionaries, move over and make way for tomorrow. Because surely it has arrived.

'CHANGING TIMES'

By HENRY WIZGIER

The sudden swift changes which have taken place in Australian soccer within the last couple of years, seem also to have left some people completely stranded, unable to keep up with them. Echoes of Bob Dylan's 60's hit 'The Times They Are A Changin'.

Les Murray, in his rather weak pleas on both 'World Soccer' and 'On The Ball' could come out with no more convincing arguments against having a European-based coach than, 'it's silly'. If having a coach close to his players is silly, then there are a lot of 'silly' football associations in the world. Someone else argued that it's never been done before. It hasn't because, no Australian coach has ever had his 'entire' squad based in Europe before.

But similar things HAVE happened elsewhere and if Les and Johnnie Warren were to let their brains overrule their hearts they might look at countries that are in a similar predicament to us, like Nigeria for instance. This assembly line of footballing talent churns out players for export in far greater quantities than we do. It is rare to see a European game on World Soccer without at least one Nigerian participating. Their 'entire' Olympic games winning squad was based in Europe! Does that ring a bell?

Now Nigeria, also have a European-based coach in Dutchman Joe Bonfrere who lives in Holland and spends his time travelling around Europe, checking up on his players.

The importance, not to mention difficulties of being able to keep an eye on your squad is best exemplified by this piece from a recent 'World Soccer' (the magazine) article by French writer Andre Duclos. "... so

many of Aime Jacquet's squad will now be playing abroad which means infinite journeys to check on them"

'Infinite journeys' for the French coach means having to go all the way from his base in France to Turin, Milan and Barcelona among other places.

But according to Les, Johnny Warren and a few others - we don't need a coach in Europe. Therefore we must assume that an Australian based coach would have to make his 'infinite journeys' to Rome, Auxerre, Birmingham, Tenerife, Breda etc from Mascot Airport in Sydney. He would have to fly out every Thursday or Friday to get to Heathrow, Paris, Rome or Madrid in plenty of time for a week-end match. After returning to Aussie, the poor fellow would hardly be over his jet-lag when it was time to go off again.

Now, we come to the expenses for an Aussie-based coach. Apart from the air fares and cab fares to and from the various airports, there are the hotel bills and Les should know what they cost in London, Rome and Paris. Do you reckon there'll be much change out of \$400,000 at the end of the year?

Alternatively of course perhaps Les and Johnny do not believe it is necessary for our coach to watch his Euro players 'live' at all. After all, he can read snippets of how they played in various papers and magazines, watch videos - when he can get them, plus of course, there are also the phone and fax. There is no substitute for watching players 'live', otherwise why would any coach bother going to matches at all? He might as well stay at home and watch his players on Satellite TV.

No international football coach has ever coached his team from 20,000 kilometers away. That, is what would

make Australian football a laughing stock, not, having someone on the spot to call his players together for a training session whenever there is break in European leagues.

Another weak argument against is, "players who want to play for Australia will have to go and live in Europe". The fact is that nowadays if an Australian player is up to international standard - he already WILL BE playing in Europe.

And how can anyone seriously compare Rudi Gutendorf to Terry Venables, who has only coached the world's biggest football team to win their National title, as

well as taken a slightly-above average English side to the European National Championship semi-finals?

No Australian coach has ever had to deal with an entire squad of 'fully-professional' players before either. For all his local success, Zoran Matic has worked only with part-timers.

But what about the people at the centre of this debate - the players themselves. They appear to be 'over the moon' about it. "It's inspirational - a shot in the arm for Australian football", says Mark Bosnich. They, are the ones who are going to have to 'do the business'

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MATCH REPORTS

BREAKERS STRUGGLE TO HOLD WARRIORS

Newcastle Breakers

1 By DANE SKAFTE

Collingwood Warriors 1

A last minute attempt by Newcastle Breakers striker, Troy Halpin, was not enough to give the Newcastle side three points in the Ericsson Cup clash against Collingwood Warriors last Friday night at the Breakers Stadium, the game ending in a 1 all draw.

Newcastle took the lead while some spectators were still finding their seats. According to the clock, lanky striker Clayton Zane put the home side in the lead thanks to a good flick on by Troy Halpin in the 38th second. Zane gave the Collingwood keeper no chance with his left footed shot.

The Topper Breakers continued to push forward and were unlucky not to have gone further ahead after a cross by Craig Sharpley was cleared by the Warriors defence but only into the path of Harry James. James' volley nudged over the bar as he held his head in disbelief.

Collingwood had their best opportunity midway through the first half after a header by John Wardell from 15 metres out went sizzling over the bar. The visitors levelled the score after a free kick by George Jolevski found the left footed volley of Brian McNicol. He gave keeper Liam Baker no chance.

With the game deadlocked at 1-1 at the half time break neither side found the back of the net in the second half. Halpin missed several opportunities for the Breakers and was very disappointed with his effort.

The heavy rain didn't deter the small but vocal crowd of 1,370 who braved the torrential rain to watch the home side pick up its fourth draw.

Breakers coach John Kosmina said it's the same old story, "We created plenty of chances but failed to finish off."

"But I'm happy with the way we played. We lack in concentration at times. Troy (Halpin) should have buried several chances."

Kosmina praised the efforts of the whole team especially Todd McManus and Liam Baker who played solidly all night at the back.

Collingwood's coach Zoran Matic agreed the conditions on the park didn't favour any side, "We got caught out with an early goal but we fought back and got the equaliser."

"I was hoping to pick up three points in Newcastle but this was not the case."

Matic realised the potential of Zane and Halpin saying they always looked dangerous near the ball.



Todd McManus: Played an outstanding game for Topper Breakers.

Newcastle: Baker, Sprod, Richie, Ironside, Thomas, Zane, Halpin, McManus, Sharpley, Austin, James (Bennett 77)

Collingwood: Duric, Wardell (Babic 77), Jolevski, Cerrachio, Fak, Taliadorra, Vlahos, Silic (Boutsianis 84), Taliadoros, Tapai, MacNicol.

Yellow Cards: Newcastle: Austin (35), James (51)

Scorers: Newcastle: Zane (1), Collingwood: MacNicol (26)
Crowd: 1,370.
Referee: M. Shickl.
POY: 3-McManus (NB), 2-MacNicol (CW), 1-Baker (NB).

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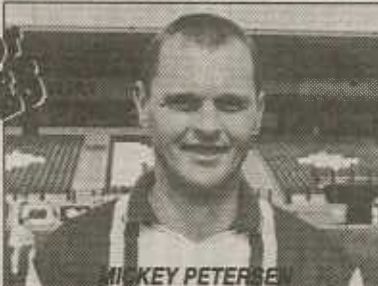


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MATCH REPORTS

LAKERS FORCE LUCKY DRAW

South Melbourne 1

By DWYGH TUFFNELL

Melbourne Knights 1

A controversial equaliser from substitute Warren Spink gained South Melbourne a point in Sunday's Melbourne derby at Lakeside Stadium. Spink, who had replaced Ivan Kelic in the 44th minute, appeared to handle a cross from the right hand side before rounding Vilson Knezevic and slotting home.

The Knights were furious that the referee allowed the goal to stand. Angie Postecoglou, whose side has been on the end of some controversial refereeing decisions themselves, said that he did not see it.

The Lakers play up until half time did not satisfy the home supporters.

Passes going astray, losing possession too easily and some suspect defending left Postecoglou with a lot of work to do in the dressing room at half time, to revitalise the team.

Zoran Markovski, with his first ever goal for the club, gave the Knights an 11th minute lead when he headed in Ivan Duzel's corner unchallenged.

Markovski though, by the game's end should have had a hat trick as the Lakers failed to stop him at corners.

Young Mijo Trupkovic, starting his first game, could have given the Knights the lead even earlier when he spurned a great opportunity in the second minute.

Just seconds before half time, South were forced to make a change with Kelic straining a hamstring attempting a shot at goal.

In the second period the Lakers looked a much better team and definitely had more chances. Only Knights lanky 'keeper Vilson Knezevic kept them at bay with a string of fine saves.

Firstly, he robbed his former team mate Fausto De Amicis of a certain goal, tipping his shot over the bar. He then twice denied South just after they had equalised when he stopped a hot one from Paul Trimboli and then recovered to block a rebound shot from Vaughan Coveny.

Both coaches admitted it

wasn't a good result for either side.

"It's a worse result for us because we've got to start winning games at home, otherwise it puts pressure on us away from home," Postecoglou said.

"The whole second half was ours, we created enough chances to win four games.

"The worst part of the game was that we conceded a soft goal. We've been doing that consistently and that's a shame because apart from that we were well in control of the game."

Dobson said that the team's performance had pleased him more than any other this season.

He also hinted that the club is on the lookout for a couple

Lakers: Petkovic, Orlic, Kuzmanovic, Blatis, Pola, Coveny, Trimboli, Iosifidis (Damianos 83), Clarkson (Panopoulos 74), Kelic (Spink 44), De Amicis.

☆☆☆

Knights: Knezevic, D Cervinski, Z Markovski, Simunic, Marth, Lapsansky (Kovacevic 77), Kutlesovski, Trupkovic (J Markovski 46), T Pondeljic, Duzel (Vojtek 67), Banini.

of strikers in the wake of Adrian Cervinski breaking down at training during the week.

"It was an open,

Scorers: Lakers: Spink (60). Knights: Z Markovski (11). **Yellow Cards:** Lakers: Polak (36), Orlic (58). Panopoulos (90). Knights: Lapsansky (27), Z Markovski (66), J Markovski (82). **Referee:** G Conolly. **Crowd:** 9,631. **POY:** 3-Knezevic (MK), 2-Trimboli (SM), 1-Z Markovski (MK).



entertaining game and South Melbourne came at us having got that equaliser and put us on the backfoot," Dobson said.

STRIKERS SWAMP OLYMPIC

Brisbane Strikers 4

By GLENN DAVIS

UTS Olympic 1

Just as the bubble looked like bursting, Brisbane Strikers produced an amazing comeback to swamp glamour Sydney side UTS Olympic 4-1 at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

The clash started as a typical grudge match with the Strikers not forgetting UTS Olympic were the side which put paid to Brisbane's chances of securing a top two finish and possibly hosting the inaugural Ericsson Cup final last year.

The visitors struck an early blow against Brisbane, taking a 1-Nil lead after just six minutes when Abbas Saad scored from close range after striker Kris Trajanovski dummied a corner from former Olyroo Norman Tome.

The Strikers, who were minus stout defender Glenn Gwynne through injury and suspended midfield sensation Kasey Wherman, had trouble handling the visitors pace in the first 20 minutes.

However, the homeside slowly grafted their way back

into the match after their unusual nervous start and bagged the equaliser on the stroke of half time when rangy defender Mark Battistin headed home a Gary Phillips corner.

The second half was played in stark contrast to the first 45 minutes, with the Strikers on the attack from the whistle attempting to gain the initiative on their home turf.

However, with the scores still deadlocked, the eventual turning point came at a critical stage eleven minutes into the second half when referee Eugene Brazzale sent off Olympic keeper George Bouhoutsos for a deliberate hand ball outside the box.

Bouhoutsos, who had played a dominant role in the Olympic goal, raced off his line to cut out a cross from Socceroo Sean Cranney and slid across his goal boundary. The dismissal put UTS Olympic on the backfoot, but surprisingly coach David Ratcliffe put Tome, his side's smallest player between the sticks in place of Bouhoutsos.

Tome tried valiantly at

times, but being outnumbered in general play it was always on the cards from then on that the Strikers would continue their unbeaten Ericsson Cup run.

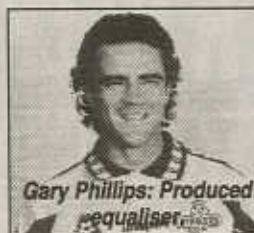
It took only another seven minutes before the Strikers hit the lead through midfielder Troy Cranney.

Cranney found the gamebreaker with a brave header after an Alan Hunter cross was headed on by Rod Brown towards the far post where Cranney was lurking.

It was Hunter's performance on the night, particularly in the second half which reignited the Strikers after the spark appeared to have gone out in the first 20 minutes.

Hunter was again involved in the Strikers third goal, this time touching on a free kick from Phillips to Brown who produced a spectacular diving header for his fifth goal of the season.

Andrew Brayshaw, a former Australian Schoolboy, bagged the fourth for the Strikers when he just managed



to get his head to a curling cross from Danny Wright on the fulltime whistle.

Brayshaw's goal was enough to put the Strikers ahead of Sydney United at the top of the table on goal difference despite Sydney United's 4-2 win over Perth Glory.

Strikers' assistant coach Peter Tokesi, a long serving player for former national league club Brisbane City in his playing days acknowledged the Strikers slow start.

"We started slowly and it took about 20 minutes before we sorted out our midfield defensively and went forward," Tokesi said.

"The only real attacks they made in the first half was from our silly passes but we managed to finish the first half

Brisbane Strikers:

Bolton, Bell, Hunter, Phillips, Wright, T Cranney (V Becirbecovic 82), S Cranney, Battistin, Farina, Brown, Brayshaw.

UTS Olympic:

Bouhoutsos, Barrett, Baillie, Zelic (Ardone 73), Tsekenis, Tome, Emerton, Trajanovski, Bove, Blagojevic (Augerinos 68), Saad (Meredith 58).

Scorers: Strikers: Battistin (45), T Cranney (63), Brown (70), Brayshaw (90). UTS: Saad (6).

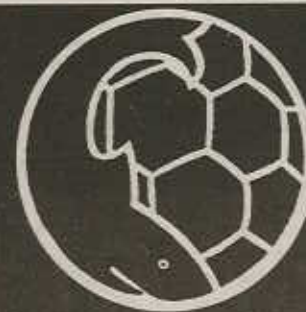
Yellow Cards: Strikers: T Cranney (8), Battistin (87). **Red Cards:** Olympic: Bouhoutsos (56).

Referee: G. Conolly. **POY:** 3-Hunter (BS), 2-S Cranney (BS), 1-Barrett (UO).

strongly and we knew we could continue it on.

"It's a huge result and it's a six point game when you beat teams like them.

"They're a good attacking side and Norman Tome has been outstanding in recent weeks.



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MENNILLO SETTLES ADELAIDE DERBY

Adelaide City 1

By LANCE LIBRANDI

W. Adelaide 0

A warm evening and a large crowd provided the perfect setting for summer Soccer, and this clash between two traditional rivals had plenty of action for all who viewed it. The Zebras took the match by the only goal of the game.

The first chance of the night fell to John Gibson in the fourth minute. A free kick, laid off to him by Dino Mennillo, was hit low and hard, but the long range effort was well held by young Sharks keeper Nathan Wildy. The early minutes of the game were marred by petty fouls, but the players soon shifted their endeavours to playing, and the game flowed freely. There was plenty of end-to-end attacks, but both sides had trouble with their raids breaking down along their

respective forward lines.

A good run on goals by Pablo Cardozo was thwarted by a timely Milan Ivanovic tackle in the 24th minute, and three minutes later Cardozo again tried his luck, curling a free kick just wide of the left post. City also had opportunities to score, with Brad Hassell having a shot saved, then a Michael Musitano effort also finding the keeper.

The best chance of the first half fell to Hassell in the 39th minute, when he received a fine through ball from Alex Tobin and had only the Sharks goalkeeper to beat. He managed to chip the onrushing custodian, but his attempt was well wide of the target. Definitely one that got away for the improving Zebra forward, who is regaining form in recent weeks. The half ended with no score, and neither keeper really tested.

The second period started with a bang, with a foul on Musitano outside the penalty area after just one minute of play. The subsequent free kick was drilled into the top left corner, dipping over Wildy, giving him no chance. The spectacular 20 metre strike brought the City fans to their feet, with Mennillo making a habit of scoring long-range goals.

The Zebras then had what appeared to be a legitimate penalty claim ignored by the referee, after Kosta Salapasis seemed to be dragged down in the penalty area. Three minutes later, a great run by Cardozo saw him weave past three defenders and shoot from inside the penalty box. He wasted the opportunity however, firing straight into Jason Petkovic's arms.

Thereafter, West lifted their

tempo and made three substitutions within the next 20 minutes, trying to create an equaliser.

Another free kick to City had Gibson shoot into the defensive wall, then skyng the rebound. In the 73rd minute, the Sharks had a golden chance to level, when sub Nathan Day pinpointed a cross to find Jim Tsekenis in the penalty area. The usually lethal striker had his close-range strike saved by Petkovic. A further distant shot by Cardozo was also held by the Zebra keeper five minutes later. Energetic midfielder Gibson had the last attempt of the night three minutes from full-time, when his shot from inside the box was well saved by Wildy. The game ended, with an entertaining ninety minutes and seven yellow cards, illustrating the competitive nature of these Adelaide rivals.

Adelaide City:

Petkovic, Armour, Ivanovic, Tobin, Costanzo, Hassell, Mennillo, Gibson, Musitano (Brooks 65), Brazzale, Salapasis.

West Adelaide:

Wildy, Thorp, Perin (Artone 72), Slager, Hooker, Alagich (Castro 60), Cardozo, Milosevic, Kokkinoplitis, Borghetto (Day 60), Tsekenis.

Scorers: Adelaide City: Mennillo (46).

Yellow Cards: Adelaide City: Costanzo (55), Hassell (77), Mennillo (90). West Adelaide: Kokkinoplitis (30), Slager (31), Thorp (61), Tsekenis (84).

Crowd: 8,914. **Referee:** W Dade. **POY:** 3-Mennillo (AC), 2-Cardozo (WA), 1-Gibson (AC).



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ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

UNITED MARCH OVER GLORY

Sydney United
4

By JOHN ECONOMOS

Perth Glory
2

Sydney United's outstanding imported linkman Kresimir Marusic in the space of the last nine magical minutes of the first session, set up two goals and scored one to lay the foundations of a 4-2 victory over a galant Perth Glory last Saturday night in drizzling rain at the Sydney United Sports Centre.

The team from the West's enthusiasm was not dampened by the rain. They shocked the home outfit grabbing the lead as early as the 11th minute when left midfielder Paul Strudwick cheekily cannoned a vicious 25 metre left-footed flat free-kick. It split the 'wall' and flashed just inside the right post.

For the rest of the first session the West Australians courageously and relentlessly burst forward into attack. However Marusic saved

United.

Marusic, sitting just behind his twin-strikers Ante Milicic and David Zdrilic, was the difference between the two sides.

The 13th minute proved unlucky for Marusic, as well as for United, as from 20 metres out on the left he clipped Perth's cross-bar to be denied joy. Again in the 31st minute his perfect cross into the box saw striker David Zdrilic go just wide with his header.

In the last nine minutes of this session, Marusic gained full control to see that United grabbed all three League points and still remain undefeated after seven rounds. Marusic's perfect corner in the 36th minute easily found United's Velimir Kupresak who headed into the target. Two minutes later his second corner this time found striker Zdrilic who also nailed the

target with a header to grab the lead for United.

Seconds before halftime Marusic latched onto a great through-ball from the intelligent Zdrilic to race away and score one for himself.

Despite United's overall wealth of experience, discipline and pace, Perth refused to surrender the battle. Despite this, on the hour mark, United scored their fourth goal as highly skilled Milicic got away and from wide on the left slammed a low drive that ricocheted in off the far post to lift United to a 4-1 lead.

Still the tenacious and persistent Perth boys battled on and were rewarded in the 73rd minute with their second goal. Latching onto a very long clearance out of defence that badly bounced for central marker Mark Rudan, Kalogeracos streaked away to

easily put the ball away.

A world class diving left handed save by United's towering goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac from a hot-header, denied both Strudwick and Perth a very well-deserved goal. Had this goal gone in anything could have happened. Outstanding performers were Marusic, Kupresak and Zdrilic for the home side whilst the glorious Perth side were well served by tracker Craig Naven and dynamic striker Kalogeracos.

Gary Marocchi Perth's coach evaluated, "United has to be the best side in the League. This was a most exciting game, yet we made them, at times look average. I thought we did very well and their goalkeeper's fabulous save in the second half was most important for them."

"We have to take our opportunities that we create. The almost always



subdued United coach Branko Culina commented, "I'm happy with the result even having played without our injured skipper Tony Popovic, but not getting too excited with it as we scored goals but

still are conceding soft ones which greatly concerns me. They attacked us but we were pretty good on the counter and now have the ability to lift the tempo of games when we want to."

Sydney United:

Kalac: Babic, Kupresak, Rudan: Traykovski, Enes (Cvetko 62), Bilokapic, Moric: Zdrilic, Marusic, Milicic (Gibson 83).

★ ★ ★

Perth Glory: Maras:

C.Naven, Ithier, Buljubasic, Miller: Wingell, McVittie (Beretovac 82), G.Naven, Strudwick: Despotovski, Kalogeracos.

Scorers: United:

Kupresak (36), Zdrilic (38), Marusic (45), Milicic (61), Strudwick (11) Kalogeracos (73)

Yellow Cards: United:

Milicic (65), Cvetko (82)

Referee: C. Diomis.

Crowd: 3,450

POY: 3-Marusic (SU), 2-Craig Naven (PG), 1-Kalogeracos (PG).

WOLVES MOVE INTO TOP SIX

Wollongong City
3

By PHIL MURPHY

Marconi Fairfield
2

Wollongong City proved they are definitely playoff material when they disposed of Marconi 3-2 in a thriller at Brandon Park on Sunday night.

It was a vintage performance as far as the Wolves fans in a crowd of 5518 were concerned. Coach Nick Theodorakopoulos agreed.

"That was a superb effort and people will really sit up and take notice of the boys after that," he said.

"I have said from the start we are operating on a squad basis."

"At the moment I have people who go on as replacements and nothing changes."

"Tonight, Martin Bourke, Nick Joseski and Richard Lloyd came off the bench and did really well."

It was Lloyd who headed in a dramatic winner five

minutes from the end just when it seemed the Wolves would have to be content with their fifth draw in seven games.

Joseski chipped a nice ball into the middle and Lloyd timed his run perfectly to head past goalkeeper Bob Catlin.

After the game, Marconi coach Manfred Schaeffer was critical of Catlin.

"Bob has saved us a number of times but he was at fault for two of the goals tonight," Schaeffer said.

"I thought it was a very tight thing but we took the wrong option too many times in the first round — good luck to Wollongong."

Marconi were very disappointing before halftime and Wollongong had looked easily the better side at that stage.

Sonny Sevin and Michael Reda had looked dominant while the game had gone 29

minutes before Wolves goalkeeper Brett Hughes had to make his first save.

Wollongong hit the lead after only 48 seconds, Sevin having made a great burst up the centre and swept the ball wide to Lupcho Naumovski.

Naumovski knocked the ball back into Sevin's path and Catlin appeared to misjudge the midfielder's shot. The ball passed under his body into the net.

Andy Harper levelled after 31 minutes when he headed home a Luke Casserly cross from the right but within 90 seconds the home team were back in front.

Alvin Cecolli, who had another outstanding game, sent in a free kick from the left and sweeper Jason Connelly headed a goal from close range.

It was 2-1 at the interval then Francis Awaritefe showed great perseverance in



the box to drive home the equaliser.

There were chances at both ends but the home team thoroughly deserved to take the three points.

Schaeffer brought Matthew Bingley on in place of Casserly at halftime and the visitors played with more purpose but they still lacked the cohesion of the side which finished on top of the league last season.

Wollongong: Hughes, Cecolli, Van Egmond, Horsley, Sevin (Bourke 58), Naumovski, Reda, Perinich (Joseski 80), Harlock, Surjan (Lloyd 35), Connelly.

★ ★ ★

Marconi: Catlin, De Marigny, Casserly (Bingley 45), Harper, Foster, Maloney (Hristodoulou 78), Longo, Awaritefe, Souris, Renaud, Zoric. Referee: M. Breeze. Crowd: 5518.

Yellow Cards: Marconi - Foster (28), Longo (59). Goals: Wollongong - Sevin 48 seconds, Connelly (32), Lloyd (85). Marconi: Harper (31), Awaritefe (53). POY: 3- Cecolli (W) 2, Reda (W), 1-De Marigny (M).

COSMOS HANG ON FOR DRAW IN GIPPSLAND

Gippsland Falcons
0
Canberra Cosmos
0

Canberra held out a determined Gippsland Falcons to salvage a precious 0-0 draw in a Ericsson Cup match at Falcons Park on Saturday night.

This was the second consecutive draw for the Cosmos. In fact their only four points of the season have come from games where they have shared the points. The team from the nation's capital remains in last place on the standings.

The Falcons continue to struggle with just one win from their seven games.

The home side, coming from that 2-1 win in Perth last week, dominated proceedings,

but lacked the vital final touch with chance after chance going begging.

The Gippslanders kept on breaking the tight Canberra defence, but a brilliant exhibition by goalkeeper Danny Milosevic, the best player on the field, kept the home side goalless.

Gippsland Falcons coach Frank Arok blasted his players after the game.

He asked how a team which dominated the play and clearly outplayed their opponents could not manage to score at least once.

"Some of our players were down right selfish and foolish, they will be dealt with in due course," Arok said.

Arok would not commit himself as to which players he was referring to specifically, but indicated that some of the strikers are far too selfish.

The Cosmos had no choice but to defend and occasionally tried to catch the home side on the counter attack.

Richard Watson, assisted by George Sorras effectively played the role of general in defence.

Cosmos coach Mike Lyons was satisfied with the draw.

"We lost our captain in the first half and had to re-group, by tightening our defence, we also had our chances but could not capitalise," he said.

Gippsland: Kourtis, Marcina, Stergiopoulos, Palamaras, Gimenez, Foy (Tricarico 66), Krncevic (Wright 57), Duric (Masi 46), Bell, Hastie, Mangos.

★ ★ ★

Canberra: Milosevic, Dee, Milin, Watson, Wade, Garcia, Wilson, Buljan, Lazzari (Baxter 60), Koch (Armstrong 42), Sorras.

Yellow Cards: Falcons - Krncevic (21). Cosmos - Wilson (76), Armstrong (79).

Crowd: 2,667.

Referee: J. Markovski.

POY: 3-Milosevic (CC), 2-Watson (CC), 1-Sorras (CC).

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Fly away fund for David Hill?

Dear Sir,
David Hill's latest "odyssey" in quest of a new Socceroo coach or two, has attracted widespread scathing criticism and deservedly so. To my knowledge only Craig Johnston and an (unknown to me) scribe called Grantley Bernard support his latest folly. As for Johnston how can someone who has consistently shown a total lack of interest or commitment to OZ soccer make a realistic judgement. The unknown Bernard envisages someone like Venables being able to magically arrange matches against world class opposition for the Socceroos.

This is exactly what "maestro" Hill promised but never delivered when first elected to his position on S.A.

As for EL TEL Venables there is no doubt as a player and more recently as a wheeler dealer his (was) world class but any close scrutiny of his career as a coach will show nothing more than a patchy success rate. In any case as many critics have indicated why are we looking overseas for a coach when most honest British experts freely concede the severe

shortcomings of English and Scottish football.

Interestingly both Brazil and Argentina football countries of the highest pedigree who also have most of their best players playing in Europe have never seen the need or sense of dual coaches.

I suggest a fly away fund for David Hill be established.

This will allow our intrepid chairman to travel far and wide in a style to which he has become accustomed, to his hearts content. For good measure Mr Neville Wran should become the funds organiser/planner, Sir Arthur George treasurer/adviser, George Negus P.R. officer and Peter Grey can organise Hills luggage arrangements.

No doubt some people will think I am joking. Nothing could be further from the truth. Removing Hill and Co in this way may seem expensive even extravagant, but very often costly damage control before total disaster strikes can turn out to be a heaven sent blessing and bargain.

Meanwhile I await with bated breath "maestro" David Hills next pronouncement.

R. Melor,
BONDI, 2026 NSW.

A Drover's dog could do it

Dear Sir,
Let's get one thing clear, even a drover's dog can coach us into the next World Cup Finals. So why is Soccer Australia squandering big dollars on Terry Venables?

What an insult to the local coaches, players, and fans!

Soccer in Australia needs to be popularised by strengthening the domestic competition. The successes and failures of the national team must be based on the local players. Instead we hear about marketing plans and an overseas coaching appointment that is all part of a grand strategy to "Australianise" soccer in this country. As if all the people involved in the sport today are not Australians.

The allegation that certain SA officials overlooked our local coach, Zoran Matic, because of his migrant English accent, must make us the laughing stock of the world Soccer community. It also smells of racism.

I sometimes get the impression that some of the top power brokers in SA resent that the local competition is dominated by clubs, players, coaches and fans who have a non-English speaking background. Somehow it doesn't fit their grand marketing strategies that all these people are

ethnics because that is what is allegedly restricting the sports' progress in Australia. Mr Hill instead wants to have a showcase national team of expatriates who have severed their roots with Australian soccer.

It seems that many of the decisions and announcements made by the SA hierarchy are ad hoc and top-down. There is little consultation and the officials have a paternalistic attitude towards the people who are involved with the local clubs. The expatriate national team and Terry Venables will get all the limelight and the Ericsson Cup competition will continue to be treated as an unfortunate ethnic sideshow.

I suggest that all local players, fans and coaches who have a "foreign" name and who speak Migrant English do the following:

1. Change your name by Anglicising it;
2. See a speech therapist.

Only then may we become part of Soccer Australia's grand strategy to market Soccer to all those closet "fans" who love watching British Soccer on TV. Perhaps this is the reason why Terry Venables has been employed by Soccer Australia.

Salvatore Monaco
MEADOW HTS., VIC.

BRITISH STYLE NO WAY

Dear Sir,
"Cultural cringe" is a symptom that has long been endemic in the land 'Down Under', which barely two decades ago still regarded itself as a bastion of the British Empire. Despite our advances in various fields, including the field of international

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



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The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN &
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Promotional Coup?

Dear Sir,
What has David Hill done? Has he initiated an expensive disaster or has he pulled off a promotional coup unequalled in Australian sport?

When reports of David Hill's approach to Terry Venables first came through my reaction was "Shock! Horror!", like 60%-70% of other soccer fans. Why look overseas when the talent which produced the 100 plus Australians playing overseas is right here ... and available!

Our path to France is so easy (compared to 1974) that, Johnny Warren has twice stated on SBS, his grandmother could do the job.

A local coach would possibly save \$200,000 a sum which could introduce Rooball into the 8000 schools in Australia. It could be argued that two converts to Soccer in each school

would put 1000 teams on the park with reserves. Not a bad return on investment.

But a problem has dogged soccer in Australia — the media in general does not care. We have the player numbers, many parents prefer their children to play Soccer, but the so-called "Mainstream" media ignores us. Only when our departing coach, Thomson, was caught in his histrionic displays, mouthing copious quantities of four letter words, that the TV news gave us a run.

Hardly promotional activity to lift the image of Soccer.

They say "luck favors the brave". David Hill showed that bravery. He did what he thought was best for Australian Soccer ... and quickly.

In a matter of days he has put Australian Soccer on front pages of many newspapers around the globe and onto every sports

page of the 190 Soccer nations of the world.

I am told European TV featured the story and David Hill was seen as a battler from a distant emerging Soccer nation. But one with guts and determination. Decision makers in board rooms around Australia this week were exposed to press radio and TV coverage for days — unprecedented in Soccer publicity in this country.

The value of this publicity makes Terry Venables fee look like small change indeed. And his cheeky charisma makes highly promotionable.

If the momentum can be maintained Soccer's chances for major sponsorship have been enhanced far beyond the wildest dreams of the most optimistic.

Good on yer, David, mate!

George Green,
ALSTONWELL NSW.

Zebras facing extinction?

Dear Sir,
Incredible that it seems but the situation must be explained.

Zebras are becoming extinct in the wild and what's more, there needs to be a protection plan to for this most magnificent of life's living species. I say again magnificent and mean extraordinary as well. That is, there must be a nature assimilation plan in progress to relocate those poor unlucky Zebras back into the wild.

I know, why don't we start

in Adelaide where they have complete immunity from fouls in giving and taking.

That way the powers that be can visualise that they are the cleanest, fairest and best team in the League. In doing this you can be sure that Messrs Tobin and company of defenders will not be yellow carded on any first "crude" (studs up) tackle no matter what position they find themselves to be in and not to mention "back handers" right in front of the referee from any new recruits so that no

penalties could therefore be awarded against the Zebras warranted or not. So in that way, they can keep on winning all those dicey matches, cop the less fouls accompanied by less yellow or red cards awarded against and cruise to the next round with the head of the herd held high, parading to every body what a great club with a great tradition we are.

Paul Zanker,
WOODVILLE STH 5011 S.A.

football, the sufferers of this complex could never accept our capabilities.

I had thought this syndrome buried with the rise of Australian republicanism; however, unfortunately I have been proved wrong by no less than the editor of ABSW. According to the Editor, Australia does not possess in its ranks a good crosser or passer of the ball, a skilled midfielder or a quality striker, and should therefore resurrect the aggressive British style which formerly characterised the Australian game.

Without considering the range of candidates available, three players readily spring to mind who possess all of the above qualities: Goran Lozanovski (quality crosser), Paul Okon (midfield/sweeper par excellence), and as for strikers, Aurelio Vidmar, Carl Veart and Mark Viduka are all capable.

Regarding the Australian style of play, multiculturalism has provided the Australian national sides with a pool of talented players. These players combine the technical excellence of continental Europe (Zelic, Okon), the ball-control of the South Americans (Mendez, Corica) and the traditional battling qualities of British football (Muscat, Veart), to create a

unique Australian style. Regressing to the long-ball game of 'kick and rush' British football is no longer an option for international football, as the other nations would simply absorb such long balls and punish us on the counter-attack.

The employment of Terry Venables as the national coach has now raised the goal of the national team beyond qualification to progression past the first round of France '98. Venables is capable of raising the profile of football in this country with his accent and profile being acceptable to the Anglo-centric Australian media. However it is to be hoped that locally-based coaches such as Farina, Culina, Matic and Blanco are given a taste of international coaching during Venables' employment. Providing such experience will make the selection of the person to replace Venables a great deal easier.

Anthony Fenson,
HIGHGATE HILL, QLD.

Editors note: Glad someone came in with a response. However in no way was the article intended to imply that Australia should play the British way. We must however play to our strengths.

Delighted with Venables

Dear Sir,

With great delight I have received the news that Venables is going to be our National Coach. Let's forget about sentiments such as a local coach should have got the job etc. Forget it! Let's get the best or one of the best. The man has the profile, internationally, which our coaches don't. The advantages are numerous. I bet Australia will get to play good national teams and not second best. I bet these national teams will be at almost full strength. Players will declare that they are going to commit themselves for Australia and not just for themselves. We will be coached at a modern level and I hope and guess in a more attacking manner. He can teach his ideas to other (our) coaches. The notion that English coaches only believe in 'kick and rush', the long ball etc. is only with a few. Most of that is long forgotten. Just think of Liverpool in the 70s. If you have Pay-TV you will agree that we are witnessing often exciting and modern football. Even last Monday, Sheffield Wednesday displayed some beautiful football. Quick one-touch passing and attacking football. I also don't think that it is a valid argument to say that foreigners don't know our players, our style and culture. Watching a few videos would give Terry a quick idea what Aussie players are all about.

I agree that his assistant should be an Australian coach. The future will soon tell whether we are right or wrong. I was disappointed in John Warren and Les Murray's comments that "even his granny could coach us to France." I think they are under estimating the Asian countries. Even with "El Tel" it is going to be difficult. I will understand that our New Zealand friends could treat such comments with contempt and I hope we are not having to eat our words.

I do agree perhaps that this time we will have a better chance and don't have to play against Argentina, but let's give Terry Venables a go and don't knock him before he has done nothing, or nothing wrong for that matter. Maybe he can wake up this "sleeping giant" we all hear about!

Gerry van Duuren,
UWS, NEPEAN.

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WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK

Story & Pic by PAUL HARLEY — Continued

With the NYL being held in Summer and the Brisbane competition in Winter, he was now refereeing all year round. His first season in Brisbane brought him a final appointment as referee in the Queensland Soccer Club Cup, a knockout tournament for Second and Third Division Clubs. He was also a linesman on the Interstate clash between Queensland and New South Wales. The following season he had his first taste of Queensland's premier soccer competition, the Brisbane XXXX League.

Two successful field tests meant he achieved his Class 1 Certificate. The season finished with him refereeing the Third Division Grand Final.

That led to his biggest test so far. His performances in Brisbane and on the NYL earned him a nomination for the National Soccer League referees panel for the 1995-96 season. This was accepted. When the delayed, revamped Ericsson Cup finally got under way, he was appointed to the Round One fixture between Sydney United and West Adelaide. "I heard about the game on Tuesday, it was being played that Sunday night. It was the longest, slowest five days of my life!"

On Sunday, 8th October 1995, aged 22 years and one month, he became the youngest referee ever to take control of a soccer match at this level in Australia. There were 4,160 spectators inside Edensor Park to witness it. There were five television cameras to record his every move from all angles. There were commentators and expert

analysts to scrutinise and criticise his decisions during slow motion replays. There were 22 vastly experienced players, including current and former Socceroos, ready to find out just what this new kid on the block was made of. Another pressure situation? "Definitely - it was totally awesome!" In spite - or because - of this, he counts this as his most memorable match.

Again, a considerable step up in the standard and intensity of play was involved, more so as he had barely become accustomed to the previous level. Ordinarily, a referee is expected to spend two years at the highest level of soccer in his state before being considered for national duties. This would generally involve around 25-30 games. Shield had three months and six games. "Yes, you could say it was a steep learning curve!" he agrees.

Part of the reason for his rapid rise to NSL level has been the Talent Acceleration Program. Launched Australia-wide in February 1994, in reaction to a decision by FIFA to reduce the retirement age of international referees and linesmen from 50 to 45, the program aimed to identify referees with the potential to achieve this level of performance and accelerate their development toward doing so. Shield is the clearest evidence so far, in Queensland at least, that the program is achieving its objective. However, a number of younger referees are waiting in the wings, capable of following in his footsteps.

Meanwhile Shield has enjoyed further success in the recently completed Brisbane season, refereeing the XXXX

League Grand Final in early September. The biggest game on the Queensland calendar, this is obviously the one all the local referees aim for, so the appointment meant a lot to him. By all accounts he gave a very capable performance and given his age, it could be the first of many. He also came close to a clean sweep in the "Referee of the Year" awards, second in the vote by club coaches, but top of the list in the eyes of his fellow referees and the Appointments Board.

In his early days as a referee, watching "The Big Match" on television, Shield aspired to reach the level of his role model, Richard Lorenc, and the other top referees of the time. While doing so has obviously involved considerable effort on his part, he readily acknowledges the assistance of others. He names McGowan and Such as the two major influences on his career, and is grateful to his parents for their constant support. Many of his colleagues have also helped in various ways over the years. In particular, the experienced senior referees in Brisbane have always been ready with advice and encouragement since his arrival from Rockhampton for his first NYL game. Those same referees are now striving to take over from him on the NSL panel, should he show any signs of slipping up. Its all part of the game, and as he says, it helps him to maintain his standards and ensure that the situation doesn't arise.

Looking ahead, his next target is the much sought after FIFA badge. Queensland has been without a FIFA referee since Bill Montevede retired in 1992. Shield has



Mark Shield: Hopeful of FIFA status in near future.

ambitions to fill the gap, and sees his attendance at the Oceania Football Confederation Elite Referees course in Auckland in March this year as a step in the right direction. Of 20 referees on the course, 18 were current FIFA panel members. The exceptions were Shield and fellow Australian Brett Hugo of New South Wales, their inclusion being a sign of their potential to achieve this level at some future date.

He has already sampled international soccer, as fourth official at the Australia versus Sweden clash in February. Although no closer to the action than sitting at a table on the touchline, looking after paperwork and substitutions, it was enough to convince him that he wanted more of the same. "The last time I'd seen any of the Swedish players was on television in the semis of the 1994 World Cup. To walk onto the pitch with them less than two years later was an incredible feeling. The crowd, the noise, the atmosphere were all on a

much higher level than I'd ever experienced before. And when the game started - well, I'd have given my left leg to get out there!"

Like many Australian sports people, Shield has Sydney 2000 at the back of his mind. With women's soccer now established and the men's event second only to the World Cup in prestige, the opportunities for Australian referees are enormous. "Obviously I'd love to be there" he said, "But it won't just happen. I have to work towards my FIFA badge first. I need at least two more good, strong seasons on the NSL to have any chance." (The minimum age for the award of a FIFA referees badge is 25). "But what could be a better motivator?" Well maybe one thing. The dream of so many in Australian soccer over the years, realised by so few. "To take part in the World Cup Finals" he says. "That has to be my ultimate goal." Given his progress so far, who's to say he won't achieve it?

Aussies Abroad...

By HENRY WIZGIER

George Kulscar will surely be on Terry Venables list of players to watch. The Royal Antwerp defender is having an excellent season in the Belgian league with a club who are arguably the country's great under-achievers. Hailing from Belgium's second largest city, they have constantly lived in the shadows of teams from smaller towns such as Bruges, Mechelen and Liege as well as the Giants from Brussels - Anderlecht of course.

George plays either centre back or on the right in a three-man defence and has been holding a regular place all season, though he missed out on last weeks 3-2 win against Molenbeek which put the 'Royals' within striking distance of the UEFA Cup allocation region.

"Unfortunately, I was suspended for that game", George said. "But it was an exciting match. We were 0-2 down and came back in a storming finish to take all the

points.

"Next week we play the top guns Club Brugge, so it should be a cracker"

George has settled in well at Antwerp, thanks to the fact that most Belgians speak good English however, he can actually hold his own in Flemish. I asked him for his



honest opinion on the Belgian league.

"Not as strong as past seasons due to the top players leaving for much greener pastures - similar to Australia in a way".

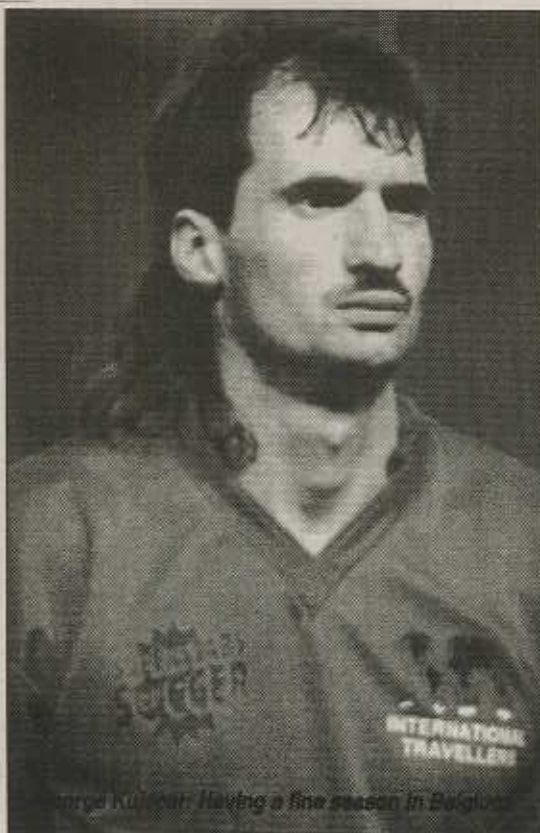
Does he get a bit home sick?

"There are many times when I miss the Aussie lifestyle so my visits home are always special".

Unfortunately, the interview was made just before the Venables news broke so I was unable to ascertain what George thought about it.

He is currently the only Aussie playing in the First Division but there are three fellow-countrymen plying their trade in the League below. They are Zlat Arambasic who plays for a club that are no strangers to the top flight - Beerschott, Lorenz Kindtner is with Ostende while Alex Kiraztoglou turns out for Rita Berlaq.

Mark Schwarzer has left Kaiserslautern in Germany and joined Bradford City. If you are wondering why the Aussie custodian has chosen an undistinguished First Division Yorkshire club to further his career perhaps it should be pointed out that they play in the same league as Portsmouth FC. Another undistinguished First Division club whose Chairman happens to be a certain Mr. T. Venables. Smart move Mark.



George Kulscar: Having a fine season in Belgium.

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AROUND THE CLUBS

Breakers man off the Pitch

By DANE SKAFTE
If you have ever wondered how much work and organisation goes into running a Soccer Club, well think no further, just ask Newcastle Topper Breakers Manager Jimmy James. The former hardware manager has been involved with the Newcastle club since 1986 and is the backbone behind the club's success.

"I started back in the late seventies with Newcastle KB United and was very involved with the supporters club in those days," James said. He gets plenty of satisfaction from watching the lads play on the park.

"It is terrific for all the hard work you put in, because the players really appreciate it."

The 73 year old spends most of his spare time with his wife Lesley or at the Breakers home ground.

"I spend five hours at the ground every day except when the team is playing away. There is always something to be done and it gives me great satisfaction to be involved with all these blokes."

James would dearly love to see the crowds come back like the KB United days, but he was not very optimistic.

"We need the crowds for

the club to survive but I can't see this happening with all the other sports available today.

"If you keep winning the crowds will turn up, but when you are losing they drop off just like the Rugby League or Basketball."

James agreed that the workload is enormous leading up to home matches especially Thursday and Friday.

"Everything has to be done ready for the game, cutting the lawns and making sure the dressing rooms are okay."

James has a long time friend in Bernie Larkin who assists him at the ground on match days.

"It just takes some of the work load off me," said the intrepid greenkeeper.

He believes his side can get into the top eight in the Ericsson Cup if they show more aggression. When asked who was the best coach he had worked under, he had no hesitation in naming former coach, Bruce Stowell.

"Bruce was a good coach and he was very well disciplined with the team. He was well respected in the club."

James has had plenty of opportunities over the years to see many good Soccer players and he believes that



Newcastle defender Todd McManus is getting better with every game.

"The last few games he has improved 100% along with goal keeper Liam Baker, who is showing plenty of strength."

When asked what the future holds for Jimmy James personally, he was very uncertain.

"I'll wait to see what happens with Murdoch's Super League next year. I have no interest in Rugby League and if it gets too much for me I will give it away," James concluded.

*The Soccer community

around Australia is aware of the tragedy that occurred a fortnight ago with the loss of well known Soccer identity Mark Kaiser, 30. Mark was one of the four men killed in the Gretley Colliery disaster in the Hunter coalfields. Over 1,000 mourners attended the church service including work colleagues and past and present Soccer players.

Everyone at ABSW extends their condolences to Ken and Margaret, his parents and Mark's wife Lisa. May he rest in peace.



WOLVES NOW NICK'S TEAM

By PHIL MURPHY

He won't admit it but Wollongong City coach Nick Theodorakopoulos will have mixed feelings about Sunday's Ericsson Cup clash against his old club, UTS Olympic.

The man who suffered two broken legs (both against Wollongong) playing up front for Olympic had made up his mind he wanted to coach the club.

It became a burning ambition, until he was given the opportunity to take over at Brandon Park last season. Theodorakopoulos was appointed coach of the Wolves after the departure of Berti Mariani and is still serving his national league apprenticeship.

While he admits he always wanted to coach Olympic, Wollongong are now his team and he wants to stay on as long as they want him.

"Wollongong have given me my chance and I am very happy there," he told ABSW.

"The people there have been very good to me and we have a very good set-up. Wollongong have adopted a very professional attitude this season and deserve to be successful."

"I have been happy with the response I am getting from my players and we all believe we can make the playoffs."

"There is still a lot of hard work to do and our main problem has been getting the

ball into the net. I believe we can overcome that and go on with the job."

Theodorakopoulos will always have a soft spot for Olympic but Wollongong is his club at the moment. He will be working overtime this week to plot their downfall.

"It would be nice to get a win against Olympic but I have a lot of respect for the players and coach Dave Ratcliffe," Theodorakopoulos said.

"I have got to know Ratcliffe well and he is a shrewd customer. His team are well organised and have to be one of the strong contenders for the championship."

"Containing the likes of Kris Trajanovski and Norman Tome won't be easy. Olympic are powerful all over the park."

Theodorakopoulos said there was a chance Geoff Gunning could be in the Wolves lineup for Sunday's game.

Gunning, who was with Parramatta in the NSW Super League last season, is keen to get back into the Ericsson Cup, he had talks with the Wolves coach last week. A tough, no-nonsense style of striker, Gunning could be just what the doctor ordered for Wollongong.

One thing the South Coast team, have lacked this season is a player to take the initiative in the box.



Ratcliffe, who was coach at Wollongong for six seasons before taking the Olympic job, said he expected a very hard game. He said Wollongong would go to Belmore Sports Ground determined to pull off an upset.

"Nick has a fair squad down there this season," Ratcliffe said.

"They have been a bit unlucky with a couple of the games they drew and look quite strong at the back."

"Gary van Egmond will be a big plus to them while (goalkeeper) Brett Hughes appears to be playing very well. Sonny Sevin has started to play quite well and I have always thought he would be a good buy for the Wolves."

HAIRY DEBATE IN STALLIONS STABLE

By BOB BROOKS

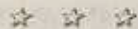
Women often consider a bald headed man to be sexy. Some men dislike losing their hair and buy a toupe, or wig, to cover their bald pate.

Hair is considered a sign of strength by some. When Samson lost his hair in the Bible story, he also lost all his strength.

Francis Awaritefe obviously likes dreadlocks, while Matt Bingley likes to wear his hair long. Craig Foster delights in the shorter style.

However the big shock this season was to see goalie Bobby Catlin with a shaven cranium. This was a style first sported by skipper, Andy Harper.

You can bet that others in the Stallions camp will join the minimalist style of Harper and Catlin. Who will be next?



On the weekend of January 11 and 12 next year, 'Soccer Sixes' will be played at

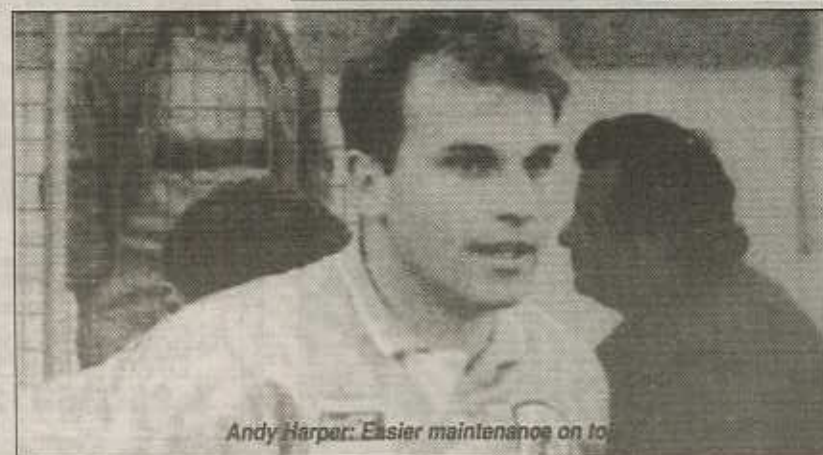
Marconi Stadium. This is a yearly event with each team nominating ten players.

Teams are drawn into groups of four and there are three games each. The group winners progress to the next round. Entry fees are payable which average \$30 a player for a full team.

The winners take away \$3,000 with a \$1,000 second prize. Peter Warren of Fairfield, a local car dealership, sponsor the event. See advertisement on page 15 for further details.



Francis Awaritefe loves his hair.



Andy Harper: Easier maintenance on to

QSF elects Directors

Queensland Soccer Federation President Wally Dann was re-elected for a ninth consecutive term at the QSF Annual General Meeting on Sunday.

Dann was opposed for the first time by fellow board member Gordon Arrowsmith.

Although Arrowsmith lost the ballot for President, he successfully challenged incumbent Guido Canale for the vice-presidency.

Dann has been instrumental in the QSF's restructuring of Brisbane's Fourx League competition in recent months, reshaping it from a 12-team competition to eight teams with a future view of possibly forming a new State League competition.

Re-elected unopposed was treasurer Lawrie Carwardine while six members were elected to the board of directors from ten candidates.

Current board members re-elected were Canale, Ray Evans, Ian Dalzell and Rod Bradley while the new faces chosen were Martin Critchall and Glenn Davis.

The QSF AGM also bestowed a Life Membership on Brisbane's former Lord

QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION



Mayor Clem Jones for his long service to the sport. Jones is currently a Board member of the Brisbane Strikers.

AROUND THE CLUBS



Ralph Bove: Keen to play for Australia at 2000 Olympics

YOUNG OLYMPIC PLAYER WITH AMBITION

By JODEE ROGERS

Ralph Bove is on the verge of breaking into the Young Socceroos line up, he's a young player with huge dreams for the future.

He was one of the 35 selected to go into the training camp in preparation for the Young Socceroos trip to South Africa. The 19 year old was unlucky not to have been selected but was placed on standby.

In the camp the players trained twice a day and during the week they played two games including a friendly against the Korean A side.

In December, he hopes to make it to Tahiti with the team. His main aim is to play for Australia at the 2000 Olympic games.

Raphael is a true UTS junior. He played for the Colts three years ago then spent a year with the youth side, until last season where he moved into the first grade line up. He started in one game and was brought on as a substitute in several other games. He is keen to break into the first eleven. So far this season he has started in three out of the five games that Olympic have played, so he could be well on his way!

Alistair Edwards has just finished his graduate certificate in Sports Management at the University of Technology, Sydney. Next year he is going back to begin his Masters degree. With two small children running around and training sessions four nights a week he is juggling his time extremely well.

So well in fact that along with Craig Foster from Marconi he has set up a company, called "OzSoccer". The main aim of the company is to promote and market the game of Soccer. One of the first products to be marketed is a video featuring Socceroos such as Goran Lozanovski, Alex Tobin and Damian Mori. We'll keep you informed of other products as they are released.

A point that he did mention was that clubs need to think about making their players full time staff. As he said just look at a team like Sydney United whose players are all full timers to see that they are getting results. A view that other clubs should take note of, at present no one at Olympic is a full timer.

More news on Belmore Oval. The players have advised that the atmosphere from the crowd is not as good as it used to be at Leichhardt Oval on a Sunday night last season. They feel the crowd is further away from the field and so they can't hear the shouts of encouragement.

Milan Blagojevic is working for Foxtel as a Sports Presenter. He commentates on games from around the world. For his job he does a great deal of research into the game here and abroad and as a result has become the resident expert!

Speaking with the players about the appointment of new Australian coach Terry Venables, the reactions were very positive. They agreed that it was an exciting time for the growth of Australian Soccer. Venables

being such a high profile coach who is willing to take on the challenge will improve our chances for World Cup 98.

Walter Ardone has been nominated out of the players to be entered in the Cleo Magazine's annual "Bachelor of the Year" competition. He

has not yet heard if he has made the final selection of the top 50. I've been told that this competition is no surprise to the Olympic club, a couple of years ago Milan Blagojevic did really well in the same competition when he finished a close second! We'll let you know how well Walter does!

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SO COME ON DOWN AND JOIN US TONIGHT,
TO WATCH PERTH GLORY IS A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT,
AND WHEN IT'S ALL OVER AND THE DAY IS DONE,
WE'LL KNOW, THAT WE HAD FUN,
FOR THE GLORY BOYS ARE WHO WE ARE,
SHINING BRIGHTLY, IN THE WEST, LIKE A STAR.

PAUL BOTTAKI



ADELAIDE'S REACTIONS TO VENABLES

By LANCE LIBRANDI

Here are some interesting quotes from Soccer identities around Adelaide, in reaction to the appointment of Terry Venables as Socceroo coach:

Allan Crisp ("Advertiser" Soccer journalist)
"An excellent appointment for Terry Venables. He will get Australia to France in 1998, but so too would have Zoran Matic or Raul Blanco, as this is the easiest path to the World Cup, Australia has had since Rale Rasic got us there in 1974."

Adrian Santrac (West Adelaide coach)

"On the surface, a positive appointment, but time will tell."

John Nyskohus (Adelaide City coach)

"I'm very disappointed that

the coaches in this country, who have brought the national team to its current position, have been overlooked for an overseas figure."

Robbie Hooker (West Adelaide captain)

"A man with his credentials and past success can only benefit Australian soccer."

Alex Tobin (Adelaide City captain)

"I feel it is a positive appointment, however there is some apprehension as to whether the new coach has enough time to adequately take over the position before qualifiers begin."

John Perin (Former Adelaide City coach)

"I personally believe Soccer Australia did not need to look outside Australia for the national team coach. I have made my endorsement of

Zoran Matic known, but now the appointment has been made, we go from here."

West Adelaide playmaker Ross Aloisi was to have made his return to the Sharks midfield in last weekend's derby against Adelaide City. However, a red card Aloisi received in the youth league game the week before, ensured his wait for first team football was delayed.

Adelaide City's current policy of involving former players within the club's coaching ranks has continued. In addition to Zoran Matic, John Perin and John Nyskohus being former and present first team coaches, and Joe Mullen currently as Nyskohus' assistant, the club has just appointed Sergio Melia as City's State League



Tobin: Feels positive about Venables

team coach and Paul Shillabeer to lead the youth team from next season.

Adelaide City Recruitment Dead-End No. 76:

Another set-back for the Zebras in their attempts to bolster their squad. Knights midfielder Mark Silic flew to Adelaide last Tuesday and agreed on terms with the club,

then informed City president Austin Toner the next day that he would join Collingwood Warriors instead.

Unfortunately, these last minute knock-backs have occurred with monotonous regularity in Adelaide in the last couple of seasons. Whatever happened to players conducting their affairs professionally?

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AROUND THE CLUBS



Knights struggling to score

By DWYGH TUFFNELL

The return of striker Adrian Cervinski to action has provided the club with a boost, given its recent shyness in front of goal. Cervinski played the second half against Wollongong City with painkilling injections.

Coach Ian Dobson said the injections were for a different injury to the one he suffered before the start of the season. "I've got to get Adrian Cervinski fit and out on the park", Dobson said. "He's better off being out there."

Dobson says the team's goalscoring record has contributed to the Knights shaky start. "All you can do is set your game out and hope at the end of the day to stick your chances away."

"At the moment the record speaks for itself, it's not good enough."

The lack of goals, says Dobson, puts pressure on the defence. "Defensively, we're very stable, but the pressure mounts if we're not putting the chances away. They start to chase the game and that's when the mistakes happen."

Another factor is that the club have lost six quality players before the start of the season.

"We've only replaced one of those six players, with Ransford Banini." Dobson said, though he knows that he has to make do with what he has. "The situation I've been put in is by the club's board, not by my recommendations, and I've just got to put up with it."

"I've never been somebody to walk out of a fight, I'm prepared to work with the players and coach them."

Dobson believes that things will soon turn around at

Knights Stadium although a third successive title from this position will be very hard. "I still believe there's enough quality, given I've got no injuries or suspensions within the squad, to compete with any team in the league."

The Knights favourite son, Joe Biskic, is back in Melbourne after a stint playing in Malaysia. Biskic kicked off the game against Wollongong City to a warm round of applause.

It is rumoured that Biskic will be offered some position at Knights Stadium, whether it be on the playing or coaching staff is not yet known.

The departure of Mark Silic leaves the Knights a little light in the midfield area, so a vacancy for Biskic may exist, although age could be the challenge.



Joe Biskic: Returned from Malaysia. How can he help the Knights?

Lucky young Jetsetters?

Con Blatsis and Michael Curcija are two of the luckiest young blokes playing in the Ericsson Cup. No sooner had they returned from a month in South America than they were off for a week in South Africa. They had time for just one game against Brisbane Strikers before jetting off again.

"We just have to adjust to it" says Blatsis who played in every game of the South American tour and managed to score a goal.

"Going overseas with the Young Socceroos is a real bonus and great experience." Blatsis is on a traineeship with the Lakers and goes to school twice a week. The remainder of the week is devoted to things such as office duties at the club.

Curcija is at university although he has deferred a year to fit in the Young Socceroo commitments. He was top scorer in South America with seven goals from seven games in a partnership with Newcastle's Clayton Zane.

Both Curcija and Blatsis have adapted to the difficulty of their Young Socceroo duties coupled with their South Melbourne commitments. "With the experience we get from the Young Socceroo we'll do much better for South Melbourne," says Blatsis.

They rejoined the team at a tough time. Just one point on the board with a home loss to Sydney United thrown in, they were both included in the starting line up for the home game against the Strikers. South lost that game too and for Blatsis and Curcija, it was a day they'd rather forget.

Blatsis gave away a third



Con Blatsis: Playing few games for the Lakers due to Young Socceroo commitments.

minute penalty for a foul on Frank Farina and Curcija was replaced just after half time by fellow Young Socceroo Daniel Allsopp.

"We must start winning in front of our home crowd" said Curcija. Despite the Lakers ordinary start to the campaign, Blatsis and Curcija remain hopeful of the teams chances.

There is another tour planned for December before the World Youth Championship qualifiers begin in February. Both players are confident that Australia will qualify for the tournament to be played in Malaysia. There is talk of another camp in Europe in March should the Young Socceroos make the finals.

All this jet-setting around the world leaves the boys with mixed feelings. They are glad to be getting international experience but the down side is missing so many club matches, particularly the back to back encounters with Collingwood Warriors.



Warriors favourite for Silic

By DWYGH TUFFNELL

The Warriors are favourites to win the signature of disgruntled Melbourne Knights midfielder Mark Silic.

Silic has made just two appearances for the Knights so far this season after returning from a spell in Singapore. He fell out with coach Ian Dobson after refusing to take part in a youth league match because he was still injured.

He met with Dobson and president Angie Citera to come to some agreement but none could be found. So, Silic handed in a transfer request soon after and looks to be heading to Victoria Park to link up with another ex-Knight, Frank Juric.

*It seems that coach Zoran Matic is the big loser from the appointment of Terry

Venables as the new Socceroo coach. Matic, the favourite with everyone (apart from Soccer Australia) to take the role, will continue coaching the Warriors.

It was reported that if Matic got the job he would still coach the Warriors only taking the national job on a part-time basis. Frank Arok, Johnny Warren and several others nominated Matic for the position.

Still no word on when the Warriors postponed home match against UTS Olympic will be played. The favoured option is still Boxing Day although the Warriors are looking at Christmas Eve or Monday December 23.

The Warriors are bound to have strong opposition to any fixture played that close to Christmas from the players union which their captain, Kimon Taliadoros, just

happens to run.

A much better effort by the Warriors in their last home game against Perth Glory. This time around, several entrances were open for the public instead of the one that 12,000 odd fans had to squeeze through in the opening round.

A disappointing crowd of 5,504 fronted for that game, far below expectations although Melbourne did turn on yet another shocking day. Spotted at that game were several Collingwood Football club (Aussie Rules) supporters who are delighted with the progress of their soccer club.

The Warriors club shop opened for the first time that day and made a handy profit by the time they closed. They sold out of their home jerseys, going for \$60 a pop, and sold several other items of supporters gear.



Mark Silic: Could soon be moving to the Warriors.

Lack of locals at Falcons

A look through a current Gippsland Falcons line up reveals that they have just one local player playing for them. That is surprising when you consider the size of the area that the Falcons now represent since changing their name.

Mann Gotis, who played with the club a few years ago in the premier league when they were the Morwell Falcons, is the only player from the region to have

played. Gotis left the Falcons soon after they were admitted to the national competition. He played for Croydon City and even played some Australian Rules in the Latrobe Valley before coming back to Soccer to play for Port Melbourne.

Billy Wright has also played for the Falcons before although of British birth and a former New Zealand international, Wright could hardly be described as a local.

The area boasts the flourishing Latrobe Valley Soccer league which in the past has provided many players for the Falcons.

Apart from the Falcons, Gippsland has just three clubs taking part in competitions outside the region. Cranbourne are the highest placed of these three, having a good year in Victoria State League division three just missing out on promotion after winning the season

before.

The two other clubs, Berwick City and Newborough Yallourn, play in Victoria's Provisional league. It is also surprising that since the Falcons have entered the league, this has almost always been the case. Garry Upton, a right full back formerly with the club was the only regular local player with the club.

The area though, is traditionally a strong Australian Rules hotbed with

such players as Gary Ablett among countless others originating from the Gippsland province.

*The Falcons have signed talented youngster Joe Tricarico from the Thomastown Zebras. Tricarico made his debut in the home defeat by West Adelaide but has played at national level before. He played for Melbourne Zebras before they were relegated, impressing many good judges along the



Manny Gotis: Locally produced player who has progressed to Ericsson Cup.

way. He was considered unlucky to miss out on a spot in the 1993 Young Socceroo squad for the tournament in Qatar.

Another player to come in is VIS and Albion Redsox utility Levent Osman. Osman

was a member of the Young Socceroo squad for the two match tour of South Africa. He made his Ericsson Cup debut when he came on as a substitute against Perth Glory.



ERICSSON CUP

RESULTS & SCORERS

ROUND SEVEN

Newcastle Breakers (Zane 1)	1
Collingwood Warriors (MacNicol 25)	1
Crowd: 1,371	
Sydney United (Kupresak 36, Zdrilic 38, Marusic 43, Milicic 61)	4
Perth Glory (Strudwick 11, Kalogeracos 72)	2
Crowd: 3,450	
Gippsland Falcons	0
Canberra Cosmos	0
Crowd: 2,667	

Brisbane Strikers (Battistin 44, T Cranney 63, Brown 71, Brayshaw 88)	4
UTS Olympic (Saad 6)	1
Crowd: 5,418	
Wollongong City (Sevin 1, Connolly 32, Lloyd 81)	3
Marconi Fairfield (Harper 31, Awaritefe 52)	2
Crowd: 5,518	

South Melbourne (Spink 60)	1
Melbourne Knights (Markovski 11)	1
Crowd: 9,631	
Adelaide City (Mennillo 47)	1
West Adelaide	0
Crowd: 8,914	

ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR ROUND 7

1995/96 - 22,624
1996/97 - 36,969

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SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER 1996 - 7.00PM

Canberra Cosmos 3/1, Draw 5/2, Sydney United 4/6

MARCONI FAIRFIELD V SOUTH MELBOURNE

SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER 1996 - 7.00PM

Marconi Fairfield 4/6, Draw 9/4, South Melbourne 3/1

PERTH GLORY V ADELAIDE CITY

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 1996 - 4.00PM

Perth Glory 11/8, Draw 9/4, Adelaide City 6/4

COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS V GIPPSLAND FALCONS

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 1996 - 6.00PM

Collingwood Warriors EV, Draw 9/4, Gippsland Falcons 9/4

UTS OLYMPIC V WOLLONGONG CITY

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 1996 - 6.30PM

UTS Olympic 4/7, Draw 5/2, Wollongong City 4/1

WEST ADELAIDE V BRISBANE STRIKERS

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 1996 - 7.30PM

West Adelaide 6/4, Draw 2/1, Brisbane Strikers 6/4

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David Zdrilic - Sydney United

TABLE

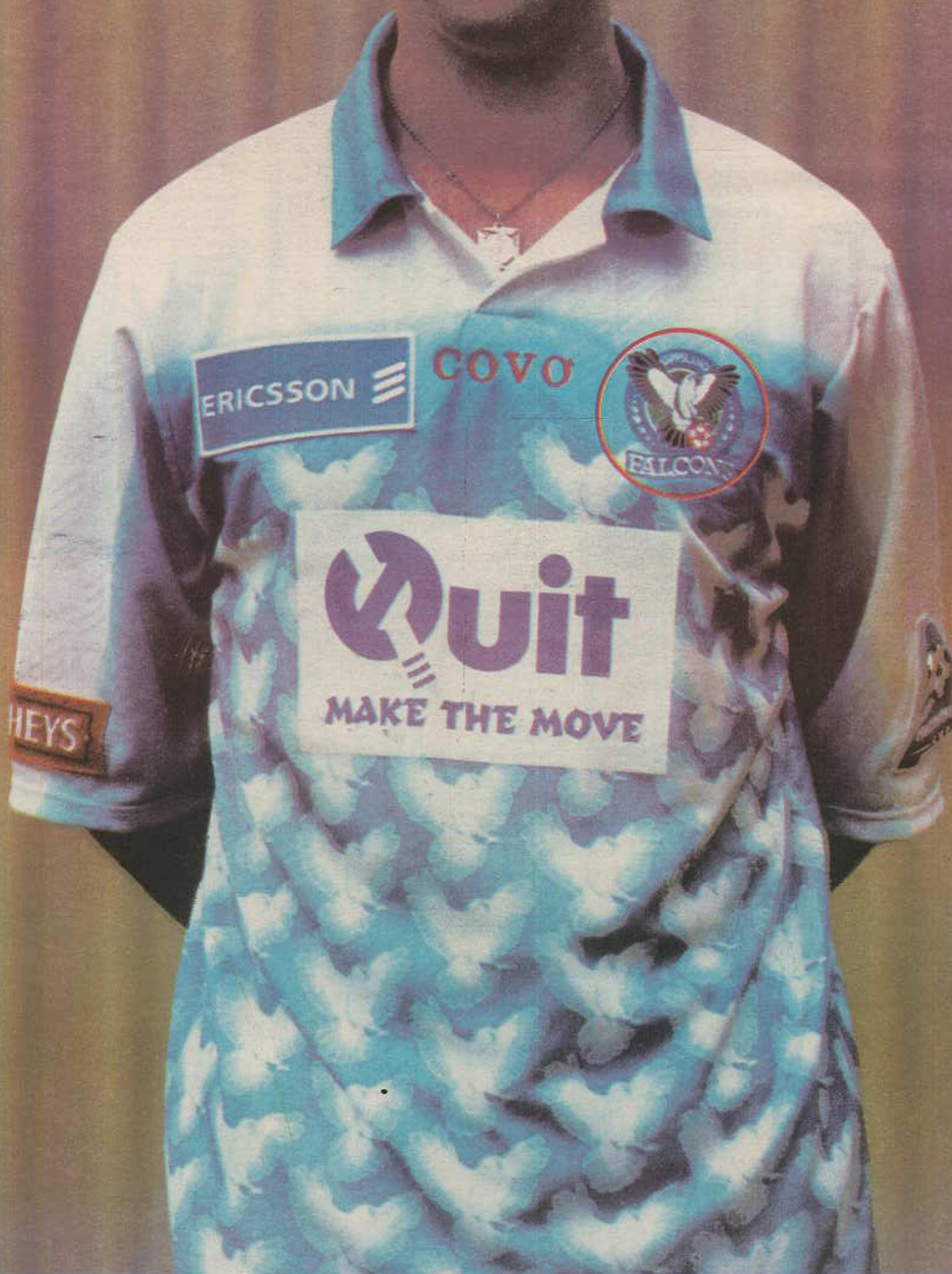
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Strikers	7	6	1	0	17	5	19
Sydney United	7	6	1	0	21	10	19
Collingwood Warriors	9	4	3	0	11	5	10
UTS Olympic	6	3	1	2	11	8	10
Wollongong City	7	2	4	1	9	8	10
Adelaide City	7	2	3	2	4	4	9
West Adelaide	7	3	0	4	12	15	9
Marconi Fairfield	7	2	2	3	9	12	8
Perth Glory	7	2	1	3	15	15	7
Newcastle Breakers	8	1	3	3	12	15	7
South Melbourne	7	1	3	3	6	9	6
Gippsland Falcons	7	1	3	3	6	10	6
Melbourne Knights	7	1	3	3	4	9	6
Canberra Cosmos	8	0	4	4	8	18	4

NAME	TEAM	GOALS
DAVID ZDRILIC	Sydney United	7
RODNEY BROWN	Brisbane Strikers	5
JASON BENNETT	Newcastle Breakers	4
BOBBY DESPOTOVSKI	Perth Glory	4
MATTHEW HORSLEY	Wollongong City	4
PAUL STRUDWICK	Perth Glory	4
NORMAN TOME	UTS Olympic	4
JIMMY TSEKINIS	West Adelaide	4
FRANK FARINA	Brisbane Strikers	3
NORMAN KELLY	Canberra Cosmos	3
GLENN SPROD	Newcastle Breakers	3
BRIAN MACNICOL	Collingwood	3
ANTE MILICIC	Sydney United	3
K TALIADOROS	Collingwood	3
KRIS TRAJANOVSKI	UTS Olympic	3

MICHAEL PETKOVIC



NICK PALMABARS





WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS

LEAGUE

Group A

Glasgow Rangers	2	Grasshopper Zurich	1
Scotland		Switzerland	
Ajax Amsterdam	1	Auxerre	2
Netherlands		France	

Table

Grasshopper Zur	5	3	0	2	8	4	9
Ajax	5	3	0	2	7	4	9
Auxerre	5	3	0	2	6	6	9
Glasgow Rangers	5	1	0	4	4	11	3

Group B

Steaua Bucharest	1	Atletico Madrid	1
Romania		Spain	
Widzew Lodz	2	Borussia Dortmund	2
Poland		Germany	

Table

Atletico Madrid	5	3	1	1	11	4	10
Borussia Dort	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Widzew Lodz	5	1	1	3	6	9	4
Steaua Bucharest	5	1	1	3	2	10	4

Group C

Manchester United	0	Juventus	1
England		Italy	
Fenerbahce	1	Rapid Vienna	0
Turkey		Austria	

Table

Juventus	5	4	1	0	9	1	13
Fenerbahce	5	2	1	2	3	4	7
Manchester Utd	5	2	0	3	4	3	6
Rapid Vienna	5	0	2	3	2	10	2

Group D

Porto	1	AC Milan	0
Portugal		Italy	
Rosenborg	1	Gothenburg	0
Norway		Sweden	

Table

Porto	5	4	1	0	10	4	13
AC Milan	5	2	1	2	12	9	7
Rosenborg	5	2	0	3	5	10	6
IFK Gothenburg	5	1	0	4	7	11	3

AUSTRIA

Austria Vienna	2	FC Tirol Innsbruck	1
Sturm Graz	0	Linz ASK	0
FC Linz	2	Casino Graz	1
Ried	0	SCN Admira/Wacker	1
SV Salzburg	1	Rapid Vienna	1

Table

Rapid Vienna	18	10	7	1	37	14	37
SV Salzburg	18	10	6	2	23	8	36
FC Tirol Innsbr	18	8	5	5	28	19	29
Linz ASK	18	6	7	5	19	20	25
Austria Vienna	18	7	3	8	21	30	24
Sturm Graz	18	5	6	7	23	21	21
Casino Graz	18	4	7	7	20	25	19
SCN Admi/Wac	18	4	6	8	19	27	18
FC Linz	18	4	5	9	11	22	17
Ried	18	5	2	11	21	36	17

BELGIUM

Ekeren	2	Cercle Brugge	2
Club Brugge	4	Antwerpen	2
Aalst	1	Lommel	1
Genk	1	Lierse	1
Standard Liege	2	Harelbeke	0
Molenbeek	1	Ghent	2
Mechelen	0	Mouscron	2
Lokeren	1	Sint Truiden	1
Charleroi	0	Anderlecht	0

Table

Club Brugge	16	10	4	2	33	16	34
Standard Liege	16	11	0	5	31	18	33
Mouscron	16	9	5	2	28	14	32
Lierse	16	7	7	2	25	15	28
Harelbeke	16	8	3	5	27	20	27
Anderlecht	16	7	6	3	26	13	27
Lommel	16	7	5	4	27	25	26
Antwerpen	16	8	1	7	28	29	25
Molenbeek	16	6	4	6	18	18	22
Ghent	16	6	3	7	27	32	21
Lokeren	16	5	5	6	26	27	20
Genk	16	4	7	5	18	22	19
SC Charleroi	16	5	3	8	23	26	18
Ekeren	16	4	4	8	21	27	16
Mechelen	16	3	5	8	16	26	14
Aalst	16	2	8	6	19	28	14
Sint Truiden	16	2	5	9	21	36	11
Cercle Brugge	16	0	5	11	15	37	5

BRAZIL

Bahia	3	Vasco da Gama	2
Botafogo	3	Vitoria	3
Coritiba	4	Portuguesa	0
Criciuma	2	Flamengo	0

Fluminense	1	Juventude	0
Goias	3	Bragantino	0
Guarani	1	Portuguesa	0
Internacional	2	Corinthians	0
Santos	0	Parana	3
Sport Recife	1	Gremio	0

Table

Cruzeiro	21	12	5	4	29	15	41
Guarani	22	12	4	6	21	14	40
Palmeiras	22	11	7	4	38	19	40
Atletico Para	21	12	3	6	38	23	39
Gremio	22	11	5	6	41	24	38
Atletico Mineiro	21	11	3	7	36	29	36
Internacional	22	10	5	7	31	26	35
Sport Recife	22	10	5	7	31	27	35
Goias	22	10	4	8	34	26	34
Portuguesa	22	10	3	9	28	28	33
Sao Paulo	21	8	7	6	37	31	31
Corinthians	22	7	10	5	19	18	31
Flamengo	22	9	3	10	24	30	30
Vitoria	22	8	5	9	31	36	29
Coritiba	22	8	4	10	24	29	28
Botafogo	22	7	7	8	32	31	28
Vasco da Gama	22	8	3	11	37	41	27
Parana	22	8	3	11	25	29	27
Santos	22	7	6	9	25	29	27
Juventude	22	7	3	12	30	37	24
Criciuma	22	5	5	12	29	38	20
Bahia	22	4	8	10	24	35	20
Fluminense	22	5	4	13	23	49	19
Bragantino	22	4	4	14	25	48	16

ENGLAND

Premier League

Chelsea	1	Newcastle	1
Coventry	1	Aston Villa	2
Leicester	1	Everton	2
Liverpool	1	Wimbledon	1
Middlesbrough	2	Manchester United	2
Southampton	0	Leeds	2
Sunderland	1	Sheffield Wednesday	1
West Ham	1	Derby	1

Table

Newcastle	14	9	2	3	25	15	29
Liverpool	14	8	4	2	24	13	28
Arsenal	13	7	4	2	24	11	25
Wimbledon	14	7	4	3	25	16	25
Chelsea	14	6	6	2	23	19	24
Everton	14	6	5	3	22	15	23
Manchester Utd	14	6	5	3	26	21	23
Aston Villa	14	6	3	5	18	15	21
Tottenham	13	6	2	5	14	11	20
Sheffield Wed	14	5	5	4	16	18	20
Derby	14	4	6	4	15	16	18
Leicester	14	5	2	7	13	18	17
West Ham	14	4	4	6	13	18	16
Leeds	14	5	1	8	13	20	16
Middlesbrough	14	3	5	6	20	25	14
Sunderland	14	3	5	6	10	17	14
Southampton	14	3	4	7	22	26	13
Coventry	14	1	7	6	8	19	10
Blackburn	13	1	5	7	11	17	8
Nottingham For	13	1	5	7	10	22	8

Leading Goalscorers

10 goals	Ian Wright
9 goals	Fabrizio Ravenelli
8 goals	Matthew Le Tissier
	Alan Shearer
	Les Ferdinand
	Gianluca Vialli
	Marcus Gayle
	Gary Speed
	Dwight York
	Robbie Earle
	Efan Ekoku

Division One

Barnsley	3	Portsmouth	2
Birmingham	1	Swindon	0
Charlton	0	Bradford	2
Crystal Palace	2	Wolverhampton	3
Huddersfield	2	Grimsby	0
Ipswich	2	Port Vale	1
Manchester City	1	Tranmere	2
Oldham	2	Oxford	1
Reading	2	Queens Park Rangers	1
Stoke	1	Southend	2
Sheffield United	1	Bolton	1
Liverpool	1	Everton	1
Charlton	2	Birmingham	1

Table

Bolton	20	11	7	2	41	26	40
Crystal Palace	19	9	7	3	43	18	34
Barnsley	18	9	6	3	33	24	33
Norwich	18	9	5	4	27	18	32
Sheffield United	17	8	6	3	32	18	30
Tranmere	19	8	5	6	28	22	29
Wolverhampton	19	8	5	6	26	21	29
Oxford United	20	8	5	7	25	17	29
Swindon	19	8	2	9	29	23	26
Birmingham	18	7	5	6	22	21	26
Ipswich	20	6	7	7	27	29	25
Stoke	17	6	6	5	24	29	24

Huddersfield	19	6	6	7	22	25	24
Port Vale	20	5	9	6	18	22	24
Portsmouth	20	6	5	9	24	28	23
West Bromwich	18	5	8	5	23	27	23
Southend	20	5	8	7	22	32	23
Charlton	17	7	2	8	18	25	23
Queens Park Ran	20	5	7	8	22	28	22
Reading	18	6	4	8	22	29	22
Manchester City	19	6	2	11	20	28	20
Bradford	20	5	5	10	18	33	20
Oldham	20	4	7	9	22	25	19
Grimsby	19	3	5	11	19	39	14

Division Two

Blackpool	1	Notts County	0
Brentford	2	Wrexham	0
Bristol City	2	Peterborough	0
Burnley	1	Bournemouth	0
Bury	1	Plymouth	0
Chesterfield	P	Watford	P
Gillingham	0	York	1
Luton	2	Bristol Rovers	1
Rotherham	0	Millwall	0
Shrewsbury	3	Stockport	2
Walsall	1	Crew	0
Wycombe	0	Preston	1
Millwall	2	Shrewsbury	1

Table

Millwall	19	11	5	3	32	21	38
Watford	19	9	7	3	21	15	34
Brentford	19	9	6	4	31	23	33
Bury	18	9	6	3	26	16	33
Chesterfield	19	10	3	6	20	15	33
Wrexham	17	8	8	1	26	18	32
Luton	18	9	4	5	28	21	31
Crew	18	10	1	7	23	17	31
Burnley	19	9	3	7	27	22	30
Stockport	19	8	6	5	24	22	30
Bristol City	18	8	5	5	33	20	29
Bristol Rovers	19	6	7	6	17	17	25
Shrewsbury	19	6	5	8	21	25	23
York	18	6	4	8	22	27	22
Gillingham	19	6	4	9	19	24	22
Plymouth	19	5	6	8	22	28	21
Bournemouth	19	6	3	10	16	23	21
Blackpool	19	4	8	7	17	20	20
Walsall	18	5	4	9	19	23	19
Preston	19	5	4	10	19	24	19
Peterborough	19	3	8	8	25	35	17
Notts County	18	4	5	9	13	20	17
Rotherham	18	3	5	10	16	26	14
Wycombe	19	3	5	11	16	31	14

Division Three

Barnet	3	Doncaster	0
Brighton	1	Carlisle	3
Cambridge United	2	Leyton Orient	0
Cardiff	2	Hereford	0
Exeter	0	Hull	0
Lincoln	0	Mansfield	0
Northampton	2	Rochdale	2
Scarborough	0	Swansea	1
Scunthorpe	3	Darlington	2
Torquay	0	Hartlepool	1
Wigan	1	Fulham	1
Chester	1	Colchester	2
Hull	2	Torquay	1</



WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

CONCACAF

World Cup Qualifiers

Trinidad & Tobago	0	USA	1
Guatemala	1	Costa Rica	0

ITALY

Serie A

Bologna	3	Atalanta	1
Cagliari	1	Napoli	1
Fiorentina	1	Piacenza	1
Lazio	1	Sampdoria	1
Parma	0	Roma	0
Perugia	3	Verona	1
Vicenza	2	Reggiana	0

Table

Vicenza	10	6	2	2	19	10	20
Bologna	10	6	1	3	19	14	19
Inter	9	5	3	1	12	7	18
Juventus	9	4	4	1	11	7	16
Napoli	10	4	4	2	14	14	16
Sampdoria	10	4	3	3	15	9	15
Roma	10	4	3	3	17	13	15
Perugia	10	5	0	5	15	16	15
Milan	9	4	2	3	14	10	14
Fiorentina	10	3	5	2	12	10	14
Parma	10	3	4	3	11	10	13
Udinese	9	3	3	3	10	10	12
Lazio	10	3	3	4	10	11	12
Piacenza	10	3	3	4	10	13	12
Atalanta	10	2	3	5	10	19	9
Cagliari	10	2	2	6	11	16	8
Verona	10	1	3	6	10	21	6
Reggiana	10	0	4	6	9	19	4

Serie B

Brescia	3	Padova	1
Cesena	1	Palermo	1
Cremonese	2	Cosenza	3
Empoli	3	Venezia	2
Foggia	3	Torino	4
Genoa	1	Chievo	1
Lecce	1	Ravenna	1
Pescara	3	Lucchese	0
Reggina	1	C.Sangro	0
Salernitana	0	Bari	0

Table

Lecce	11	8	2	1	19	9	26
Pescara	11	7	4	0	20	7	25
Brescia	11	5	5	1	15	8	20
Torino	11	5	3	3	14	12	18
Bari	11	3	7	1	15	8	16
Genoa	11	3	7	1	12	7	16
Lucchese	11	4	4	3	9	7	16
Chievo	11	4	4	3	13	12	16

Padova	11	4	3	4	11	12	15
Empoli	11	4	3	4	12	15	15
Ravenna	11	3	5	3	12	12	14
Salernitana	11	3	4	4	6	9	13
Cesena	11	2	6	3	10	10	12
Foggia	11	3	3	5	13	17	12
Palermo	11	2	5	4	11	14	11
Cosenza	11	2	5	4	9	14	11
C.Sangro	11	3	1	7	5	15	10
Reggina	11	1	6	4	9	14	9
Venezia	11	1	4	6	11	16	7
Cremonese	11	2	1	8	6	14	7

NORTHERN IRELAND

Premier League

Ards	1	Coleraine	4
Cliftonville	0	Glentoran	2
Glenavon	0	Crusaders	0
Linfield	1	Portadown	0

Table

Linfield	8	3	3	2	11	8	12
Crusaders	8	3	3	2	11	8	12
Portadown	7	3	2	2	10	10	11
Glenavon	8	2	3	3	11	11	9
Glentoran	8	2	2	4	15	16	8
Ards	8	2	1	5	11	17	7
Cliftonville	7	0	3	4	3	11	3

SCOTLAND

Premier Division

Dundee United	1	Raith	2
Dunfermline	P	Celtic	P
Hibernian	0	Aberdeen	1

Table

Rangers	12	9	2	1	28	9	29
Celtic	12	8	2	2	29	11	26
Aberdeen	13	6	4	3	25	14	22
Hearts	13	5	4	4	16	17	19
Dunfermline	12	4	4	4	16	23	16
Hibernian	13	4	3	6	11	21	15
Motherwell	13	3	5	5	15	20	14
Dundee United	13	3	4	6	14	16	13
Kilmarnock	12	3	2	7	17	26	11
Raith	13	2	2	9	13	27	8

Division One

East Fife	P	Dundee	P
Falkirk	1	St Mirren	0
Greenock Morton	3	Stirling	2
Partick	0	Airdrieonians	0
St Johnstone	2	Clydebank	0

Table

St Johnstone	15	10	2	3	29	8	32
Falkirk	15	8	2	5	16	12	26

Airdrieonians	15	5	8	2	23	14	23
Partick	15	6	5	4	23	16	2
St Mirren	15	7	2	6	20	18	23
Dundee	14	6	4	4	10	8	22
Greenock Morton	14	6	3	5	17	14	21
Clydebank	15	4	1	10	11	25	13
Stirling	15	3	3	9	18	28	12
East Fife	13	1	4	8	9	33	7

Division Two

Ayr	1	Queen of the South	0
Clyde	P	Stranraer	P
Dumbarton	1	Berwick	0
Hamilton	P	Brechin	P
Livingston	P	Stenhousemuir	P

Table

Ayr	15	11	2	2	29	14	35
Livingston	14	9	4	1	25	10	31
Hamilton	14	8	4	2	26	10	28
Clyde	14	5	4	5	19	20	19
Queen of South	15	5	4	6	21	25	19
Stenhousemuir	14	4	5	5	17	10	17
Stranraer	13	5	2	6	11	17	17
Dumbarton	15	3	4	8	14	28	13
Brechin	13	2	5	6	12	15	11
Berwick	15	1	2	12	16	41	5

Division Three

Alloa	P	Albion	P
Arbroath	1	Forfar	1
Montrose	P	East Stirling	P
Queen's Park	2	Inverness C.Thistle	3
Ross County	1	Cowdenbeath	0

Table

Inverness Thistle	15	7	5	3	24	19	26
Ross County	15	8	1	6	22	18	25
Albion	14	6	6	2	20	13	24
Cowdenbeath	15	7	3	5	22	16	24
Montrose	14	7	2	5	23	20	23
Forfar	15	6	4	5	26	24	22
Alloa	14	5	4	5	20	20	19
Queen's Park	15	3	5	7	19	28	14
Arbroath	15	2	6	7	11	19	12
East Stirling	14	2	4	8	13	23	10

League Cup

Rangers	4	Hearts	3
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SPAIN

Celta Vigo	4	Sevilla	2
Deportivo Coruna	4	Logrones	1
Real Betis	3	Tenerife	1
Hercules	1	Compostela	0
Rayo Vallecano	1	Zaragoza	1

Oviedo	0	Real Sociedad	0
Espanyol	0	Racing Santander	0
Real Madrid	4	Valencia	2
Athletic Bilbao	2	Barcelona	1
Extremadura	1	Sporting Gijon	2

Table

Real Madrid	14	9	5	0	30	12	32
Barcelona	14	9	4	1	43	19	31
Deportivo Coruna	14	8	6	0	22	7	30
Real Betis	14	7	5	2	26	13	26
Athletic Bilbao	14	7	3	4	28	22	24
Valladolid	13	7	2	4	19	15	23
Racing Santander	14	5	7	2	15	14	22
Atletico Madrid	13	6	3	4	22	17	21
Real Sociedad	14	6	3	5	19	18	21
Celta Vigo	14	5	5	4	17	15	20
Tenerife	14	5	4	5	22	15	19
Rayo Vallecano	14	4	5	5	19	18	17
Valencia	14	5	2	7	21	22	17
Espanyol	14	4	4	6	17	19	16
Oviedo	14	4	4	6	17	20	16
Sporting Gijon	14	4	4	6	15	21	16
Sevilla	14	4	2	8	13	19	14
Compostela	14	3	4	7	13	27	13
Logrones	14	3	3	8	8	31	12
Zaragoza	14	1	8	5	17	23	11
Hercules	14	2	2	10	9	2	8
Extremadura	14	1	3	10	8	27	6

YUGOSLAVIA

Division A

Partizan	1	Vojvodina	1
Zemun	3	Mladost L	0
Hajduk	0	Cukaricki	0
Proleter	1	Red Star	2
Borac	2	Becej	1

Table

Partizan	14	11	3	0	41	9	36
Red Star	14	11	2	1	30	11	35
Vojvodina	14	7	4	3	22	12	25
Zemun	14	5	6	3	17	13	21
Mladost (L)	14	5	3	6	19	23	18
Proleter	14	5	2	7	21	21	17
Becej	14	4	4	6	16	22	16
Buducnost	14	4	3	7	12	19	15
Hajduk	14	3	5	6	12	14	14
Rad	14	3	5	6	13	16	14
Cukaricki	14	3	4	7	10	20	13
Borac	14	2	1	11	8	11	7

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WORLD STORIES

Giants face uphill battle in European Cup

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson was confident, Louis van Gaal of Ajax Amsterdam was uncertain but both their sides face the humbling prospect of a European Cup exit.

The two men watched their teams slump to home defeats in the Champions' League last week, casting considerable shadows over their presence in the quarter-final stages of the competition.

Those defeats, the second at home for each team, have left both clubs with the unenviable, uphill task of travelling away from home and effectively needing a win to qualify. History is against both of them in the sense that no side has ever qualified for the latter stages of the competition after losing two home matches in the Champions' League.

Another giant whose place in the latter stages is by no means certain are Italian champions AC Milan whose away draw at Porto left them needing one point from the final showdown in Italy with Rosenborg Trondheim of Norway, to secure a quarter-final trip to Juventus.

For English champions Manchester United, who went down 1-0 in a thrilling match with European title-holders Juventus at Old Trafford, the equation is straightforward — they need to win against Rapid Vienna on December 4. The task is made slightly simpler by the fact that the Austrians have already been eliminated from the competition.

A draw would be enough if Juventus, who have already qualified impressively at the

top of the group, beat Turkish club Fenerbahce in Turin because United came out one-goal better in the two clashes with the Turks.

But if Fenerbahce produce another upset similar to the one which saw them steal a surprise 1-0 win at Old Trafford, then it is curtains for United.

There was a suggestion that, with the hard work out of the way, the Italians might ease up in the final match but that idea was quickly scotched by Juventus coach Marcello Lippi.

"I can state categorically we will play in our usual manner and I hope sincerely that we will our final game," he said after Wednesday's game.

"There is no question that now we have qualified we will ease up against Fenerbahce. We do not play like that, we play to win."

Those were comforting words to Ferguson who appeared confident that his side could still qualify.

"Juventus play to win every match out of habit, I know they will not ease up against the Turks. I am happy to go to Vienna knowing we must win. "Now we have a great chance of going through. It is up to us to get a result in Vienna."

For Ajax, beaten by Juventus in the final last year, the job of qualifying is made more difficult by the fact that they are one of three teams on nine points and one of the others is Grasshopper Zurich, Ajax' final opponents. The third team is French side Auxerre, who beat Ajax 2-1 on Wednesday, and have the relatively simple task of hosting Glasgow Rangers.



Del Piero: Sunk United in Juventus in Manchester

In effect the match in Zurich is a straight winner-takes-all, although a draw could see both go through if Rangers follow their 2-1 win over Grasshopper Zurich with another win in Auxerre. Unlikely but not wholly impossible.

Van Gaal was hardly optimistic, though, and admitted that qualification for the quarter-finals would now

be difficult.

"We're missing too much at the moment. We have most of the possession but we're creating too few chances," he said.

If Manchester United do qualify they will face Porto in the quarter-finals while Ajax, depending on how the group finishes, would meet either Atletico Madrid or Borussia Dortmund.

More shocks in Portugal

The head of Portugal's referees organisation stepped down last week amid a nationwide scandal that has left many Portuguese feeling that their favourite sport is corrupt to the core.

The president of the Portuguese Football League's Council of Referees, judge Jose Cruz Pereira, announced his resignation at a meeting of top league officials aimed at cleaning up the game.

"You don't preach honesty, you practice it," said Cruz Pereira, who is under a judicial investigation after he admitted he had asked police to spy on a club chairman whom he suspected of bribing a referee.

Allegations of bribery and match-fixing involving club directors and referees have

made front-page news for the last two weeks, prompting 40 intellectuals to announce yesterday they had switched allegiance from their Portuguese clubs to Spanish league leader Barcelona.

"We've all changed our wives or husbands, our political parties and our jobs but never our clubs," the group, known as the 'Barcelona Faction', wrote in a statement.

On Wednesday a court sentenced the chairman of first division side Leca and a former referee to prison for bribery following a major match-rigging investigation.

An investigation is currently under way into allegations that Portuguese champion Porto sought to bribe a referee 12 years ago before a European Cup-

Winners Cup match against Scotland's Aberdeen. Both Porto and the Romanian referee in charge of the game have denied the charges.

Porto, who have qualified for the quarter-finals of this season's European Champions Cup, are embroiled in another controversy over the payment for a holiday in Brazil last year for another referee. Justice Minister Jose Vera Jardim said on Thursday there were 10 soccer corruption cases pending.

Top Lisbon team Benfica have proposed the introduction of a referee lottery system under which officials for matches would be decided by a draw broadcast live on television.

☆☆☆

CLAIMS WEAH WAS PROVOKED

UEFA said last week it had called a special disciplinary hearing next week on the scuffle involving AC Milan's George Weah after Wednesday's Champions' League match.

Porto defender Jorge Costa suffered a broken nose in the incident which took place in the player's tunnel at the end of an ill-tempered match.

The 30-year-old Weah, hailed by FIFA as a model of fair play, could face a lengthy suspension if European soccer's governing body found he had attacked Costa in the post-match clash. However, Costa could also face sanctions if UEFA found

he had provoked the incident with racist taunts.

The Portuguese, needed surgery after breaking his nose in the incident, witnessed by a UEFA official following a tense 1-1 Group D draw littered with fouls and yellow cards. Porto club doctor Jose Carlos Esteves said Weah had head-butted Costa.

Milan officials and Weah's wife Claire were quoted as saying the Liberian, holder of the prestigious Golden Ball award to Europe's top player, had reacted to racist taunts.

"That player covered George with spit and insults. Do you know what he was doing? He was baring his

teeth and jumping up and down like a monkey," Gazzetta dello Sport quoted Claire Weah as saying.

Milan's managing director Adriano Galliani told the newspaper:

"Without accusing anyone, I would just observe that certain things, like spit and racist grunts, are less evident than blood. We will be presenting our version of the facts."

Milan still needs a point from its final Group D match against Norway's Rosenborg Trondheim to be assured of reaching the quarter-finals of a competition it has won five times.

Havelange causes uproar

FIFA boss Joao Havelange, who caused a storm in January by pledging the 2006 World Cup to Africa, has revealed that Rio de Janeiro will be on the shortlist to host the 2004 Olympics.

"Rio will be among the five cities selected for the final stage of the choice for the 2004 Olympics," the president of international football's governing body told the Rio de Janeiro daily newspaper O Globo on Thursday.

"I can tell you that its (the Rio 2004 committee) report was considered one of the best by the IOC," he added.

At the start of the year, Havelange caused uproar when he told another Brazilian paper he would promise South African president Nelson Mandela that



Joao Havelange: Pronounced on the 2004 Olympics — is he losing

Africa would host the 2006 World Cup.

"(African football) is the football of the future," he said at the time. "To reward the progress that has been made, I will tell president Nelson Mandela ... that the 2006 World Cup will be on their continent."

South African Cup to Pirates

Substitute Andries Sebola scored a last minute goal to give Orlando Pirates a 1-0 victory over Jomo Cosmos in the South African Cup Final on Saturday.

The reigning African club champions won their fourth trophy inside 12 months and secured a place in next year's African Cup Winners' Cup.

Pirates were shut out by their unfancied opponents until Brandon Silent set up Sebola's late winner.

Kaizer Chiefs, who will play in the African Champions' Cup next year, beat Cape Town Spurs 6-1 in the third place play-off match.



Dundee on top in Germany

A two-goal blast from Mario Basler, one from the penalty spot, sent Bayern Munich back to the top of the Bundesliga on Saturday as the Bavarian giants edged tailenders Hansa Rostock 2-1.

"Super Mario" wrapped up the points with his first half efforts before Nigerian Jonathan Akpoborie notched a consolation, his eighth strike of the season.

Bayern leapfrogged previous leaders Stuttgart, who played on Sunday, and Bayer Leverkusen who lost 3-1 at Saint Pauli, which lifted the latter off the relegation zone.

Reigning champions Borussia Dortmund sneaked into third place with the most convincing performance of the



day, crushing Werder Bremen 4-0. It was Werder's first home loss of the season. Stephan Chapuisat started the goal feast on the half hour while Heiko Herrlich hit a brace. Heimo Pfeifenberger then put through his own net.

Elsewhere, Cologne were held 2-2 at home by a battling Hamburg, while veteran former international Stefan Kuntz helped Arminia

Bielefeld out of the bottom three by seeing off second-bottom Freiburg 2-0.

On Friday, South African-born Sean Dundee soared to the top of the Bundesliga goalscoring charts as his 11th league goal of the season helped Karlsruhe beat relegation-threatened Dusseldorf 2-0.

Frenchman Marc Keller was also on target with his fifth goal of the campaign for Karlsruhe, which are now in seventh place.

In Friday's other game, Bochum continued their impressive run following promotion to press their European credentials with a 2-0 win over fading Borussia Moenchengladbach.

RISING STARS

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS OFF TO EUROPE

The Australian Schoolboys team are only days away from embarking on their 1996 international tour. The three week tour not only takes in the United Kingdom, a regular destination for Australian teams, but includes for the first time matches in Europe.

Four full internationals have been confirmed against Wales, Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. A further six county and club matches have also been scheduled in England, Belgium and Italy.

The 16 players squad was selected after the Australian championships held in Geelong during August.

1996 has been a hectic year for the Association, with a total of 9 internationals being played - more than most other codes of football. Home internationals have included the Malaysian Under 19 team and a two-test series against the New Zealand Schoolboys side in January. The South-East Asian tour in January saw the lads return undefeated.

"The squad that has been selected is very strong," ASSSA General Manager Chris James stated. "Most of



Australian Schoolboys line up at Kuala Lumpur, Jan. '96.

the lads are playing in the National youth league with several already experienced in touring overseas."

"The tours to England have unearthed some great Aussie soccer talent. In 1986 current Soccerroo Ernie Tapai and former Soccerroo and Malaysian League top goalscorer Scott Ollerenshaw starred in the 2-1 win over

Scotland. In 1989 Tony Vidmar, David Seal, Brad Maloney and Carlo Tallidara all played prominent roles in a tremendous 3-1 win over England."

Touring Party:
Players: Ilija Prenzowski, Barney Smith, Aaron Westervelt (ACT); Mark Leone, Glen Meilak, Paul O'Grady, Kain Rastall

(NSW); Christopher Day (Queensland); Damien Beattie, Marco Bresciano, Adriano Caniglia, Adam Cimino, Damon Collina, Jason Vukadin (Victoria); Zoran Mlinar, Toby Wright (WA).

Officials: Richard Beazley (ACT), Chris James, Ron Pratt (NSW), Joe Larecki (SA).

Sun sets for Georgies

By ROY HAY

Gippsland Falcons inflicted the first defeat of the season on Sunshine Georgies at Chaplin Reserve a week ago last Saturday by four goals to one. After a very even first half hour, the Falcons broke through when Tony Sekulic scored after 37 minutes. Georgies might have gone to the break only a goal down, but in a two minute spell Gippsland gained a stranglehold on the match with goals by Carlo Villani and Manoa Masi. Georgies tried to fight back and Darko Stojilkovski reduced the margin on the hour mark, only for Shaun Conkie to reply for the Falcons four minutes later. The best of the valley boys were Shaun Conkie, Dean Vella and Archie Thompson.

Bentleigh Greens accounted for Altona Magic by three goals to one at Kingston Heath. John Natsioulas put the Greens ahead after nine minutes but Pece Cergovski brought the Magic level four minutes later. Despite the best efforts of both teams that is how it stayed till deep in the second half, when finally the Greens went ahead again through Nick Papadopoulos with a quarter of an hour to go. Steve Gogos made the points secure with a third goal three minutes later.

at John Cain Reserve. Bill Petrovski scored a brilliant solo goal after taking a pass from Andy Vargas in midfield, running through the defence, then belting the ball home from a very acute angle. His coach Ernie Merrick says he is a natural. "One of the best strikers of his generation, a goal a game man." Serhat Hulusi made the points secure in the second half with another angled shot which took a slight deflection on its way in. The Zebras fought hard and hit the post as well as finding Peter Zois in impassable form.

South Melbourne was just too strong for Melbourne Knights Colts winning by three goals to one at Bob Jane Stadium. The match was noteworthy for a desperate effort by George Goutzioulis to complete a hat-trick after scoring twice earlier in the game. The first followed a good run and cut-back by George Tzirtis in the third minute. The second came seven minutes into the second half, with another blast from the edge of the area, after the Colts had failed to clear their lines. Goutzioulis hit the post and peppered the goals with shots and a header which bounced down and over the bar, but could not get the elusive third. Daniel Allsopp won a battle he had lost and crossed into the area where the Colts again tried to play the ball away, only for Goutzioulis to set up Michael

Curcija for a simple finish. The Colts refused to buckle, even after losing Ljubo Milicevic to a leg injury and Ivan Razov ran at the defence and squeezed his shot past the keeper just five minutes from the end.

Melbourne Knights needed an early and a late goal to subdue a gutsy Green Gully by two goals to one at Knights Stadium. Branko Bacak scored in the fifth minute to set the Knights away, but the striker got his marching orders late in the game. Meanwhile Green Gully equalised in 37 minutes through Marco Denni. Then in the last minute Zlatko Maglic powered his way through to score with what was virtually the last kick of the game.

Heidelberg United ran away to a five-nil lead against Springvale City, but Springie came roaring back and scored four times in the second half to Heidelberg's one, leaving the final tally at 6-4. Heidelberg had three players sent off, all for second yellow card offences. Tass Amaridis scored in 35 and 79 minutes for the Bergers and the other goals were singles to John Maragos in the opening minute. Elias Kyriakou 5, Steve Dimas 35 and Daniel Malina just before halftime.. For the rampant Springie, Roddy Vargas opened after 47, followed by Peter Grguric 55, David Bertone 72 and Ronald Navarro two minutes from the end of an action

STH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FEDERATION SUNSMART NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

SASI	0
Woodville City	1
Adelaide B. Eagles	3
Modbury	5
Para Hills	0
Cumberland United	1
Adelaide City	2
West Adelaide	1

packed match.

It rained goals at Wembley Stadium too where Collingwood Warriors were seven-one winners over hosts Box Hill. Steve Pouniotis did the damage with goals in the fourth and fifth minutes for the Warriors. In the second half Jeff Stefanidis followed up after 58 minutes, Peter Groidis added his seven minutes later followed shortly after by Con Karasividis. Substitute Kim Bouzis scored two late goals for the Warriors. Sandwiched between them was a consolation effort by Shannon Kennedy for Box Hill.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE Southern Division

Round 6 — 15-17 NOVEMBER 1996

Bentleigh Greens (Natsioulas, Papadopoulos, Gogos)	3	Altona Magic (Cergovski)	1
Sunshine Georgies (Stojilkovski)	1	Gippsland Falcons (Skulic, Villani, Masi, Conkie)	4
Box Hill (Kennedy)	1	Collingwood Warriors (Bouzis, Pouniotis, Karasividis, Groidis, Stefanidis, Dimas, Malina)	7
Heidelberg United (Amaridis 2, Maragos, Kynakou, Berione, Navarro)	6	Springvale City (Vargao, Grguric, Berione, Navarro)	4
South Melbourne (Goutzioulis 2, Curcija)	3	Melbourne Knights Colts	1
Melbourne Knights (Bacak, Maglic)	2	Green Gully (Denni)	1
Thomastown Zebras	0	VIS (Hulusi, Petrovski)	2

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
VIS	6	5	1	0	14	2	16
South Melbourne	6	5	0	1	25	7	15
Gippsland Falcons	6	5	0	1	11	7	15
Melbourne Knights	6	4	0	2	19	11	12
Melbourne Knights Colts	6	3	0	3	13	11	9
Collingwood Warriors	5	2	2	1	16	10	8
Bentleigh Greens	5	2	1	2	8	6	7
Green Gully	6	2	0	4	9	16	6
Heidelberg United	6	1	2	3	13	19	5
Springvale City Reds	6	1	1	4	9	21	4
Thomastown Zebras	5	1	0	4	8	11	3
Altona Magic	6	1	0	5	6	22	3
Box Hill	5	0	1	1	5	19	1

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE Northern Division

Round 6 — 17 NOVEMBER 1996

Sydney United Colts	0	Wollongong City (Kariamis (26 pen), Bailey (43), Whiddet (52))	3
UTS Olympic Colts	0	Sydney United	3
ACT Academy	0	Marconi Academy (Bruni (4), Saliba (63))	2
Marconi Fairfield (Bosevski (63, 86))	2	QAS	0
UTS Olympic Rastall (42)	1	AIS (Maisano (73))	1

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Marconi Fairfield	5	4	0	1	6	2	12
UTS Olympic	5	3	2	0	10	4	11
AIS	5	3	2	0	9	3	11
Sydney United	5	3	2	0	8	2	11
Newcastle Breakers	4	3	0	1	10	6	9
Wollongong City	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
NSWIS	4	2	0	2	6	3	6
Marconi Fairfield Colts	5	2	0	3	8	7	6
QAS	5	2	0	3	8	7	6
UTS Olympic Colts	4	1	0	3	3	12	3
ACT AS	5	0	0	5	1	12	0
Sydney United Colts	6	0	0	6	1	14	0

SUNSMART NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Adelaide City	5	4	1	0	10	3	13
SASI	5	3	1	1	15	6	10
Modbury	5	3	1	1	11	6	10
West Adelaide	5	2	1	2	4	5	7
Woodville City	5	2	0	3	6	5	6
Adelaide Blue Eagles	5	2	0	3	8	10	6
Cumberland United	5	2	0	3	8	12	6
Para Hills	5	0	0	5	4	19	0

News in Brief



... by **BOB BROOKS**



We knew Kevin Muscat was playing well and impressing folks but he is doing it out of position. He's currently first name on the team sheet at Crystal Palace but at LEFT back.

Goodness knows what will happen when he gets his chance at his preferred spot on the right. Anyway he's a great favourite with the fans.



Kevin Muscat: Impressing with Palace.

Carl Veart has had a big battle to win over the Palace followers. (Referring here to Crystal not Buckingham Palace). Initially the home supporters got stuck into him and gave him the bird as only London fans can do.

Being the true professional he stuck it out, Manager Dave Bassett supported him and now he is one of the Palace supporters favourites.

Jim Tsekis apparently impressed the same Dave Bassett but being a visa play, he wasn't offered a contract.

However, Tsekis must be confident that he can eventually make it in Britain.

Hot off the press is transfer news from Kaiserslauten in Germany. Yes, Mark Schwarzer has moved for \$300,000 to Bradford City.

Yet another Aussie goalie joins a club in England. He emulates Mark Bosnich, Aston Villa; John Filan, Coventry; Frank Talia, Swindon; Jason Kearton, Crewe Alexander; and Steve Mautone, West Ham United.

He was spotted trialling for Manchester City against Bradford City in a reserves fixture. Chris Kamara fancied Schwarzer's ability



Mark Schwarzer: Moving to England.

and the deal was soon done. Chris Waddle and Gordon Cowans are two former stars going round in the North Yorkshire city and who Schwarzer will now find himself training with.

On the home front things are shifting in the coaching arena. Craig Foster Marconi and Australia midfielder rang to say that a video will be out shortly produced by current Socceroos. Surprisingly this has never been attempted before.

Alex Tobin and Foster are just two of the Socceroos involved and demonstrate many aspects of the game. The action lasts for almost an hour and is aimed squarely at junior players.

ABSW will carry a review within the next two weeks.



Gabriel 'Chi Chi' Mendez is setting up his own coaching academy at Liverpool, one of the most heavily populated areas in the Sydney basin.

He'll be working from the EG Whitlam Centre, which is a first-class facility providing recreational activities.

Mendez is still a Parramatta Eagles asset and played for Admira Wacker, in Austria on loan.

Alan Ball to Australia! The former Manchester City manager and winner of the World Cup with England in

1966 will be visiting Perth, Adelaide, Newcastle and Sydney in late January. Soccer Camps International have 'Bally' under contract. He will be accompanied by another top class coach, still to be announced.

"There's only one Slobby Bobby" is a chant heard in Perth at the Glory's home games. Bobby Despotovski is thrilling the local crowds with his skill and shooting.



Heard at the last home match when the team was down 0-3 to Gippsland Falcons, note it was on a Saturday, "We only score on Sundays".

Great good humour. The chanting is creating an atmosphere which people want to be a part of which should help to keep their crowd figures up around the 10,000 plus mark.

The noise is contained within the confines of Perth Oval by its shape and some advertising hoardings.

Too many of our Ericsson Cup grounds are wide open and any crowd noise which is generated just disappears. This doesn't encourage spectators to become involved - pity.

2JJJ is the youth network, right around Australia, of ABC radio. It has a large number of listeners, being usually second or third in each capital city after the largest rating commercial station.

Leon Gardikiotis, one of the principals of the 'Football School of Excellence', has recently been interviewed about his new enterprise by the station and his words have gone to air.

There are possibilities which ABC radio Grandstand which dominates the airwaves on

Saturdays from about 10.00am till 7.00pm and Sundays from 1.00pm till 6.30pm.

That's marketing for those who want to know.

David Hill's remarks that many of the critics of the appointment of Terry Venables were still stuck in the 1960s and 70s struck a familiar theme.



David Hill: Leading us into a bright future.

There is no doubt that a revolution, and a fairly noisy one is taking place in our great game in this country.

It will be necessary to join the revolutionaries or to become grumpy old men (and women). Those people who hanker for the status quo had better get out their nostalgic books, video tapes and memories because that will surely be their only solace.

These surely are 'interesting times', and we are fortunate to be living through them.



Will Damian Mori: Will be home for Christmas? Well, he probably will be because the German competition stops for a winter break.

It is believed that Martin Dahlin is on his way back to Borussia Muenchengladbach from Roma. This could be detrimental to Mori's chances.

Plays in the Women's team, coaches the boys in

both the Under 13s and Under 16s, Canteen Manager for last three years, works full time. Hardly seems possible does it?

Well Julie Griffiths of Quakers Hill Junior Soccer Club does all that. In Summer it's playing indoors and maintenance around her house and garden, so that she has time to do all the things in the winter.

Julie is probably amongst the five percent of people whose lives are full with the World Game.

Next year she says playing and coaching are her main priorities. Julie will stay on the Club Committee but change positions.

This is typical of a handful of devoted people, at the grass roots level of our game. By the way she has no time to be a voyeur at higher levels, Julie prefers action involvement.

December 2 at Moseley Square in seaside Glenelg, a delighted part of Adelaide, Puma Street Soccer presented by Snickers commences.

Youngsters between the ages of 10 and 16 of all abilities are welcome. The competitions will take place in the glow of daylight saving long evenings.

Each day's winners will qualify for the State Finals on Saturday December 14. The South Australian victors will compete in the Australian Finals to be held April in Melbourne.

Registration and enquiries should be made to Belinda at the South Australian Soccer Federation on 8340 0688.

Ian Brusasco, Chairman of Brisbane Strikers has thrown his and the Club's full weight behind the appointment of Terry Venables.

As Brusasco says, "Venables' declaration that he would spend the majority of his time overseas would be of concern to the younger players and the Clubs, but that in itself should not be

lack of support of Australia's full international team."

ABSW comments, a most enlightened attitude.



WHEN SATURDAY COMES

Henry Wiggier reviews a new film about soccer, just released out on video "WHEN SATURDAY COMES".

..... so does Jimmy Muir. The only disappointing thing about this 'M' rated offering of soccer drama, is that it's not really suitable for young kids. However, with Christmas now creeping closer, here is an excellent stocking-filler for your loved one. If she accuses you of selfishness, you can assure her, that this is really no more than a good old fashioned love story set against a football background. (In truth it's the other way round - but she doesn't have to know that). There is enough of the soppy stuff and even a tear jerker or two, to satisfy the most anti-soccer female - or male, partners.

But if you do intend to show it to your kids, be warned that it is very liberally sprinkled with F-words, as well as one or two risque scenes, but then what do you expect from grizzly working-class Yorkshire footballers? ("You silly chump Muir - you missed a dashed open goal?")

They haven't invented the video's which can provide smelling senses yet, but you can get a whiff of the sweat and liniment oil through the narrative.

Sean Bean who plays footballer Jimmy Muir is obviously no Gazza on the pitch, he is more convincing and obviously at home putting them away off it. But then, not many British actors belong to both RADA (the Actors Union) and the Professional Footballers Association.

Nevertheless, this is real 'Roy of The Rovers' stuff -

updated into a modern 'kitchen-sink drama'. It may not be quite up to "Saturday Night And Sunday Morning" standard, but it's a darned good 'ripping yarn'.

The story pivots on Jimmy Muir's trial with Sheffield United following his rapid rise through the ranks of non-league football. In the first trial he does enough to impress the Blades boss and his assistant Tony Currie - the actual former Leeds United, Sheffield United and England maestro, who plays himself in the film. Jimmy gets the precious invitation to return for a second trial but the night before, happens to be his best mates birthday and Jimmy, is of course expected to partake of a few celebratory liquid refreshments. Those of you who know the story of George Best will be shouting out "don't do it Jimmy - stick to the coke" (liquid variety of course - not 'Maradona snuff').

But like I said before, this is 'Roy Of The Rovers' stuff - updated in all-action and living colour. Real clubs are used for added authenticity, such as Arsenal and Manchester United and the TV commentator sounds remarkably like Martin Tyler. Realists may find a few bones to pick like for instance, Manchester United have a star called 'McDonald!'. (They could have at least given him a French name!). Purists will not be too happy with the final scene, but then football purists are not the ones who keep the film industry going.

I recommend this movie and advise every football fan to buy or hire one for his/her girl-friend/wife/boyfriend/-husband/mistress etc. - and anyone else over 15.

TOYOTA CUP 1996

The 35th Edition of the World Club Championship or - 'Toyota Cup' as it's been known since the Japanese car manufacturer took over the sponsorship of it in 1980, will be played in Tokyo tonight.

The whole Final will be shown live on SBS (Tues 26th) at 9pm

TOYOTA CUP Winners. (World-Club Champions)

Year	Winner	Beaten Finalist
1960	REAL MADRID (Spain)	Penarol 0-0, 5-1
1961	PENAROL (Uruguay)	Benfica 0-1, 5-0, 2-1
1962	SANTOS (Brazil)	Benfica 3-2, 5-2
1963	SANTOS (Brazil)	Milan 2-4, 4-2, 1-0
1964	INTER-MILAN (Italy)	Independiente 0-1, 2-0, 1-0
1965	INTER-MILAN (Italy)	Independiente 3-0, 0-0
1966	PENAROL (Uruguay)	Real Madrid 2-0, 2-0
1967	RACING CLUB (Argentina)	Celtic 0-1, 2-1, 1-0
1968	ESTUDIANTES (Argentina)	Manchester United 1-0, 1-1
1969	AC MILAN (Italy)	Estudiantes 3-0, 1-2
1970	FEYENOORD (Holland)	Estudiantes 2-2, 1-0
1971	NACIONAL (Uruguay)	Panathinaikos 1-1, 2-1
1972	ajax (Holland)	Independiente 1-1, 3-0
1973	INDEPENDIENTE (Argentina)	Juventus 1-0 (in Rome)
1974	ATLETICO MADRID (Spain) **	Independiente 0-1, 2-0
1975	(NOT PLAYED)	
1976	BAYERN MUNICH (Germany)	Cruzeiro 2-0, 0-0
1977	BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina)	Borussia M-g-bach 2-2, 3-0
1978	(NOT PLAYED)	
1979	OLIMPIA (Paraguay)	Malmo 1-0, 2-1
1980	NACIONAL (Uruguay)	Nottingham Forest 1-0

1981	FLAMENGO (Brazil)	Liverpool 3-0
1982	PENAROL (Uruguay)	Aston Villa 2-0
1983	GREMIO (Brazil)	Hamburg 2-1 a.e.t
1984	INDEPENDIENTE (Argentina)	Liverpool 1-0
1985	JUVENTUS (Italy)	Argentinos Juniors 2-2*
1986	RIVER PLATE (Argentina)	Steau Bucharest 1-0
1987	PORTO (Portugal)	Penarol 2-1 (aet)
1988	NACIONAL (Uruguay)	PSV Eindhoven 1-1*
1989	AC MILAN (Italy)	Atletico Nac 1-0 (aet)
1990	AC MILAN Italy	Olympia Asuncion 3-0
1991	RED STAR (Yugoslavia)	Colo Colo (Chile) 3-0
1992	SAO PAULO (Brazil)	Barcelona 2-1
1993	SAO PAULO (Brazil)	AC Milan 3-2
1994	VELEZ SANSFIELD (Argentina)	AC Milan 2-0
1995	ajax (Holland)	Gremio 0-0*

*Won on penalties
**Atletico Madrid played in place of European Champions, Bayern Munich.

Until 1980 the matches were played on a two-leg home and away basis. In that year Toyota took over the sponsorship and decided to have a one-off annual event, played in Tokyo.

Winning Clubs	Times
AC MILAN (Italy)	3 times
PENAROL (Uruguay)	3
NACIONAL (Uruguay)	3
INDEPENDIENTE (Argentina)	2
ajax (Holland)	2
INTER-MILAN (Italy)	2
SANTOS (Brazil)	2
SAO PAULO (Brazil)	2

ATLETICO MADRID (Spain)	1
BAYERN MUNICH (West Germany)	1
BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina)	1
ESTUDIANTES (Argentina)	1
FEYENOORD (Holland)	1
FLAMENGO (Brazil)	1
GREMIO PORTO ALEGRE (Brazil)	1
JUVENTUS (Italy)	1
OLIMPIA ASUNCION (Paraguay)	1
PORTO (Portugal)	1
RACING CLUB (Argentina)	1
REAL MADRID (Spain)	1
RED STAR BELGRADE (Yugoslavia)	1
RIVER PLATE (Argentina)	1
VELEZ SANSFIELD (Argentina)	1

Won by clubs from:	Times
Argentina	7 Times
Brazil	6
Italy	6
Uruguay	6
Holland	3
Spain	2
German	1
Paraguay	1
Portugal	1
Yugoslavia	1

By Continents:	Times
South America	20
Europe	14



WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR



MELBOURNE TO HOST USA

Melbourne will have the honour of hosting the first ever match on Australian soil of the mighty United States senior international team, 1996 Olympic Champions, when they grace our shores in January.

The Australian Women's Soccer Association has held very encouraging discussions with officials from the Carlton

Football Club, which is extending its horizons by taking in the sport of Soccer. The Carlton AFL home ground, Optus Oval, apparently has a playing surface the envy of any Soccer club. If all goes to plan, the match will be the first Soccer match to be held on the hallowed turf.

"Lou Sticka, Carlton's Soccer manager, is very

receptive to the idea of holding such a major event," said AWSA Chief Executive Warren Fisher. "It would kick off their marriage to Soccer perfectly. If Carlton, as a club get behind this, there's no doubt it will be a great success. They recognise the huge potential of the event, and have embraced the women's game as their entry into Soccer as a whole.

SBS ARE ON THE BALL

SBS-TV is showing much greater interest in covering women's Soccer with more regular features "On The Ball". This the weekly Soccer show which looks at current issues, broadcasts highlights packages and regular lighthearted pieces.

SBS reporter and presenter, Liz Deep-Jones has been instrumental in increasing the Soccer station's coverage and

recognition of women in Soccer, and was the creator of the fantastic story on women's football shown on the "World Sports" program earlier this month.

Make sure you're tuned to "On The Ball" this Sunday at 11.30am. You'll be treated to an insight into the psyche of young Aussie star Joanne Peters, plus a feature on the new National League.



Joanne Peters: Soccer on SBS TV Sunday December 1 around 11.30am.

WHEELER LATEST CASUALTY

On the eve of the National League and the visit of the USA, the fortunes of top goalkeeper Tracey Wheeler and Australian Soccer have taken a dive. Wheeler is the latest casualty in a frightening tally of Australian players to suffer cruciate ligament damage to the knee.

Wheeler hurt her knee on the first day of the recent training camp in Canberra,

but unaware any significant damage had been done, kept training and playing for the duration. On her return to Perth, the joint was quite painful and an initial consultation with the doctor indicated the bad news.

Wheeler was to don the colours of South Australia for the National League, but more significantly will be sorely missed against the number one nation, the USA.

In other knee news, Karly

Pumpa has unfortunately sustained further cartilage damage, just as she was about to make her comeback.

On the brighter side, Sacha Wainwright is making good progress and will probably have her boots back on in February. Dianne Alagich attended camp and came away unscathed after doing some training. She is still hopeful of being available for the games against the Olympic Champions.

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLGIRLS TEAM 1996

☆☆☆

Melissa Barbieri
Megan Bond
Sandy Calum
Leah Cam
Alicia Cavanagh
Lisa Collins
Rochelle Doyle
Kristy Dugomanov
Claire Hepper
Donna Marsden
Candice McMinn
Lisa Richards
Danielle Small
Amy Taylor
Lynne Westie
Lindsay Whiddett

Templestowe College, Vic
Nth Bundaberg SHS, QLD
Balga College, WA
Mackillop College, NSW
Westfields Sports HS, NSW
Fort Street HS, NSW
Corrimal HS, NSW
Wallsend HS, NSW
Ballarat Grammar, VIC
East Hills Girls' HS, NSW
Lynwood Snr HS, WA
Morrisset HS, NSW
Francis Xavier College, NSW
Erindale College, ACT
Lockyer Dist SHS, QLD
Nerang SHS, QLD

NATIONAL LEAGUE — WHAT THE COACHES SAY

Chris Tanzey from ACT Academy of Sport believes, "It's a great idea. It's valuable for the players to get this type of competition in preparation for 2000."

Tanzey says of their team, "We have several players unavailable or injured. Amy Taylor at Schoolgirls, Karly Pumpa and Sarah Cooper injured, and Angie Bean probably unavailable.

"Obviously I'd be happier with those players, but maybe it's a chance to look at a few of the real young ones, see whether they can handle it."

He says that their key players will be, "Amy Wilson who went very well at camp. She showed she can mix it with the best and that's given her confidence."

"Also Cindy Doyle, Amanda Butler, and obviously Traci Bartlett."

The former Soccerroo defender states, "With the younger side, it will be somewhat of a learning experience. It will be tough. There is a lot of ability in each of the sides, it looks pretty even. But we'll be well organised and hopefully we'll make it very difficult for them."

NSW Intitue of Sport's Connie Selby reckons,

"It's a great start. Next year it will hopefully be bigger and better with more players involved."

Selby is confident, "I think we'll do well. We have a fairly young side, but it will be good for the them to learn from and play against the National Squad players."

"To be honest I think we've got the harder group, both those teams will be really tough."

NSWIT's key players will probably be Louise McMurtrie, Jo Peters, Kelly Colebiowski, Katrina Boyd, and of course Anissa Tana-Darby.

Kevin McCormack from South Australia's Sports Intitue is delighted with the idea, "In South Australia we don't get enough opportunities to play against good level players. These are our best, so we have to play boys all the

time, which is okay but they play a different game. Our girls don't get to appreciate the skills of our top females."

"It's a great concept it will raise the profile of the sport in SA and nationally."

"The only outside player I would have liked was Tracey Wheeler. Now she's injured, I'm happy our goalkeeper Lynn White is in. With no interstate players now, we're relying on our own quality. We won't have the depth of the others, but at least we know the squad we're going with."

SA's key players will include, Sharon Black, Kristyn Swaffer, Jessica Halfpenny and Kristy Moore.

According to the coach their prospects are, "hard to tell. But this is the best squad we've ever travelled with, so we give ourselves the best opportunity."

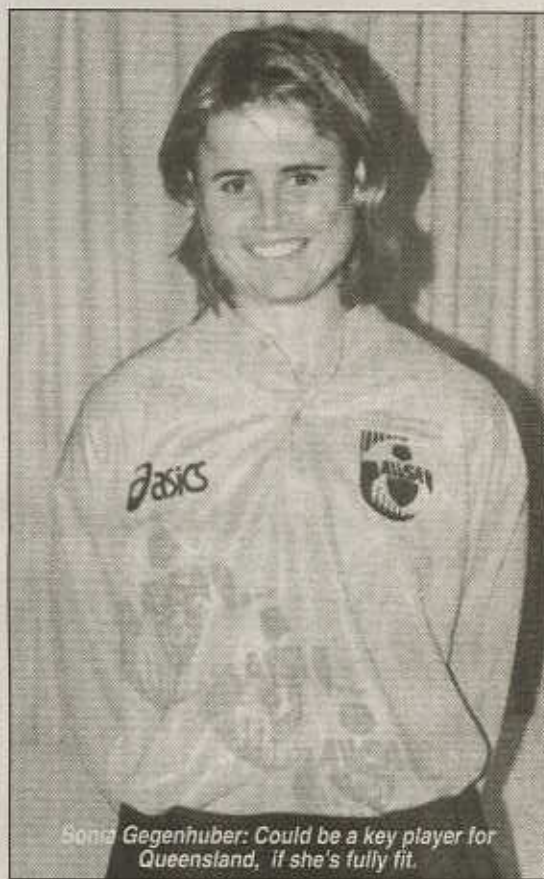
From Northern NSW Mark Jones says, "To compete with other sports and keep women's Soccer profile increasing, we need the National League. It will give the players better competition, especially the internationals. Hopefully it's the start of something bigger, providing top quality matches week in week out. Before this, there's been a bit of a void, the quality games and intensity weren't there to develop the National team players."

"I'm expecting our team to compete very strongly, to figure in the top couple. We're certainly going out to win the thing."

I think the northern division is the stronger. Our ITC is the majority of the State team, that's why I'm believe we'll do very well."

Lisa Casagrande, Bridgette Starr and Shelley Youman, who are seasoned internationals will obviously be key to their success. Jones adds, "We have a lot of players close to the top level."

Speaking from Melbourne ex-Soccerroo custodian, Jeff Olver in charge at Victoria's ITC which is sponsored by Vivien's Collection contends, "It's a stepping stone we need to take. We need to be able to crawl before we can walk."



Sonia Gegenhuber: Could be a key player for Queensland, if she's fully fit.

Hopefully it will grow to a full National League next year with a major sponsor and every State involved. It's a great concept."

He states, "We'll be competitive, as every team will. There's nothing really between the sides. I think it'll come down to the performance on the day."

"Much will depend on how teams come up playing two games in two days, plus how they go with injuries amongst other things."

Winning won't be the be all and end all. It's really another opportunity to be seen by the national coaches."

Some unfamiliar names will be among their key players including Leigh Terek, Kate Wallace, Louise Bisby, Joanne Satler, plus Lee Hamilton. Most of these are on the youngish side.

From the Sunshine State, Greg Brown of the Academy of Sport, likes the concept, "It's all very exciting for Women's Soccer. I'm really

looking forward to it. Playing NSW and NNSW is really good for us, they're two fine sides. It's a good chance for our girls to prove themselves at national level. It will be great to get decent competition."

Injury problems with Sarah Garven, Kim Revell and Tammie Thornton means they will all miss Round One. Louise McMurtrie has gone to Sydney, and Sonia Gegenhuber may also be a question mark. "We'll certainly miss not having so many experienced players. If we were at full strength, we'd be very hard to beat, but still we should give them a good game."

The ace goalscorer earmarks Lisa Dunne, April Mann, Sonia Gegenhuber (if she's okay), Belinda Kitching, and Alicia Ferguson as the QAS key players.

SCHOOLGIRLS EUROPE BOUND

This Saturday, the 1996 Australian Schoolgirls will take off for a footballing journey to remember. Over twenty days, they will take in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, as well as Belgium.

Their nine match schedule includes one international against each nation except for England. England's football setup is surprisingly unsophisticated to the point

where they have no schoolgirls or junior national team. Instead, the Aussies will take on Women's Premier League sides Arsenal and Millwall.

The Australian Schoolgirls have been making regular tours since 1987, most often to overseas destinations, with some excellent results. This year's 16 were selected in August at the Australian Schools Championship in

Geelong, with players from five States represented. Australian Champions NSW holds the biggest share with eight players.

For some, the tour may well be a significant stepping stone on to bigger things. Schoolgirl internationals who have gone on to represent at senior level include Katrina Boyd, Cheryl Salisbury, Claire Nichols, Sharon Black, Sascha Wainwright, Kristyn

Swaffer, Louise McMurtrie, Michelle Watson and Joanne Peters.

A visit to the motherland of football would not be complete without witnessing the passion and atmosphere of the men's Premier League, and the Schoolgirls have managed to squeeze in three such fixtures.





SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



STAR PROFILE

Nathan Rivera



Name: Nathan Adrian Rivera
Date of Birth: 17 January 1982
Place: Australia
Position: Left Midfield
Club: Mt Pritchard
Previous Clubs: Fairfield West, Granville, Chile, Liverpool Rangers
Best Aspect of your Game: Scoring Goals
Most Difficult Opponent: John Angelluci
Best Player in the World: Diego Maradona
Favourite Overseas Club: Colo-Colo
Favourite Local Club: Marconi
Best Coach: Fabio Cappello
Idol: Ivan Zamorano
Honours: NSW Indoor, Australia Indoor, Scotland tour
Most Memorable Moment: Meeting Pele
Worst Moment of your Career: Breaking my Ankle
Hobbies outside Soccer: Listening to Music
Best Goal you've seen: Maradona's goal against England in the 1986 World Cup
Best Game you've seen: Colo Colo v Olympia - Copa Libertadores
Food: Pasta, Asado, Chorizo, Milanese, Empanada
Preferred Music: R & B, Rap
Favourite Singer: Warren G
Favourite Colour: Blue
Sport Clothes: Nike, Adidas, Fila
Best Stadium: Cook Park
Sportman you Admire: Pele
Ambitions: To play for Australia in the World Cup and score a goal.
I was picked for an Under 18s team that is touring Scotland with a chance of being picked to play over in Scotland. We will be playing 6 games against professional teams and we will be training and trialling with them.

URUGUAY CHANGE COACHES

The Uruguayan national team who's participation in the current South American World Cup qualifying rounds has not been as successful as was expected, has a new coach.

Juan Ahuntchain, 44, who has been in charge of Uruguayan first division club Defensor Sporting for the last six years, replaced Hector Nunez at the helm of the national squad.

Nunez, sacked last week after Uruguay's defeat against Chile, in Santiago, guided Uruguay to victory in the Copa America last year.

Under the guidance of Ahuntchain, Defensor Sporting have won two Uruguayan championships and two Pre-Libertadores leagues, and finished fourth in the last national competition.



Ahuntchain has not announced which players will be selected but he said that all the footballers who have already represented Uruguay at international level will be considered as well as some local talent.

"The circumstances are difficult but not impossible. We can't plan for the future. We have to work to achieve results in the short term, to qualify for France '98," said the new coach.

The former Defensor Sporting tactician will be in charge of the national team until the end of the qualifying round. Uruguay will play their next match for the South American qualifying rounds on December 15, against Peru, in Montevideo, and then Argentina, in January, also in Montevideo.

BILARDO IN DANGER OF LOSING HIS JOB

Carlos Salvador Bilardo, the current coach of Argentine giants Boca Juniors of Buenos Aires, is in danger of losing his job after poor results in the Argentine League second and first phases.

The most popular club in Argentina, who lost their last match against Banfield, 3-1, bought players for a total of 23 million dollars. This is the largest amount spent in the history of Argentine football. If Boca loses the next match against Huracan, it could be the end for the controversial coach.

Meanwhile, clubs like Velez Sarsfield, who won the Libertadores Cup and the Toyota Cup in 1994, and took four Argentine titles in the last six years, only promoted footballers from its lower divisions, without buying one single player.

Another club, Lanus, who are currently second in the Argentine league first phase, two points behind the leader River Plate, also promotes their own talent.

Bilardo, who guided Argentina to take the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, and



finished second in Italy '90, couldn't find the right combination and failed to convince the very demanding Boca Juniors fans.

FINALISTS IN PARAGUAY

Cerro Porteno, the most popular club in Paraguay, and Guarani, have qualified for the final of the local national league after their respective victories over Olimpia and Sport Colombia. Both games were played at Asuncion Defensores del Chaco stadium, in front of 20,000 spectators.

Cerro Porteno defeated Olimpia by 3 goals to 0 and

Guarani beat Sport Colombia 4-3. Guarani and Cerro Porteno qualified for the 1997 edition of the Libertadores Cup.

Former Uruguayan national coach, Luis Cubilla, in charge of Olimpia will continue as coach of the club. After the defeat against arch rivals Cerro Porteno, Olimpia's officials confirmed Cubilla in his post denying rumours of his sacking.

LANUS DOWN INDEPENDIENTE SANTA FE

Lanus, the new entertainers in the Argentine league, took an important step towards its first major victory in the Club's history. The "granates" defeated Independiente Santa Fe, 2-0, in the first leg of the Conmebol Cup finals.

The match, played at Lanus stadium, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, attracted 20,000 spectators, the return match will be played, tomorrow Wednesday, in Medellin, Colombia.

Lanus: Roa, Serrizuela, Falaschi, Siviero, Bressan, Mena, Cravero, Ibagaza,

Coyette (Lacosegliaz 79), Enria (Belloso 77), Lopez (Coimbra 84).

Coach: Cuper
Independiente Santa Fe: Dudamel, Florez (Perez 81), Garces, Mendez, Upegui, Salcedo, Villamizar (Penayo 54), Hurtado, Vidales, Wittingham, Hoyos (Diaz 61).

Coach: Centrone
Referee: Robles (Chile).
Goals: Lanus: Mena (31 pen), Ibagaza (78)



Colombia still lead for France

Paraguay 1
Ecuador 0

Defensores del Chaco stadium, Asuncion Paraguay.

Crowd: 49,000.

Paraguay: Chilavert, Ayala, Rivarola, Gamarra, Arce, Caniza (Enciso 45), Struway, Acuna, Benitez, Baez (Cardozo 80), Rojas (Rojas 70).

Coach: Carpeggiani.

Ecuador: Morales, Rivera, Tenorio, Montano, Quinonez, Smith, Hurtado, De Souza (Fernandez 65), De La Cruz, Aguinaga, Hurtado.

Scorers: Paraguay: Benitez (20).
Referee: Gimenez (Argentina).

Peru 4
Venezuela 1

National stadium, Lima, Peru.

Crowd: 60,000.

Peru: Balerio, Solano, Soto, Reynoso, Olivares, Legario, Serrano (Maldonado 45), Palacios, Zegarra, Maestri (Carty 77), Julinho (Saenz 68).

Coach: Ohlitas.

Venezuela: Dudamel, Gonzalez, Tortolero, McIntosh, Echenausi, Filosa, Hernandez (Diaz 45), Miranda (Vera 65), Valiente, Savarese (Moran 45), Garcia.

Coach: Santana.

Scorers: Peru: Reinoso (4), Julinho (22), Palacios (50, 86). Bolivia: Vera (83).
Referee: Ortube (Bolivia).

Bolivia 2
Columbia 2

Hernan Siles stadium, La Paz, Bolivia.

Crowd: 42,000.

Bolivia: Trucco, Ochaizpur, Sanchez, Pena, Sandy, Cristaldo, Castillo, Melgar (Soria 70), Etcheverry, Ramallo (Coimbra 75), Moreno.

Coach: Lopez.

Columbia: Mondragon, Cabrera, Mendoza, Bermudez, Galeano, Alvarez, Serna, Valderrama, Rincon (Estrada 75), Asprilla (Quinonez 75), De Avila (Angel 86).

Coach: Gomez.

Scorers: Bolivia: Sandy (16), Moreno (44).
Columbia: Serna (40), Rincon (54)

Chile 1
Uruguay 0

National stadium, Santiago, Chile.

Crowd: 66,237.

Chile: Tapia, C Castaneda, Fuentes, Reyes, Margas, Chavarria, Perez (Basay 46), Cornejo, V H Castaneda (Contreras 70), Salas, Rozental (Mora 77).

Coach: Acosta.

Uruguay: Siboldi, Sanguinetti, Herrera, Montero, Mendez, Poyet, Cedres (Recoba 71), Gutierrez, Saralegui (Bengoeschea 67), Francescoli, Otero.

Coach: Nunez.

Scorers: Chile: Salas (58).
Referee: Guevara (Ecuador).

STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Columbia	6	4	2	0	12	5	14
Paraguay	5	3	1	1	6	3	10
Ecuador	6	3	0	3	8	7	9
Argentina	5	2	2	1	9	6	8
Chile	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
Peru	5	1	3	1	6	6	6
Uruguay	5	2	0	3	4	6	6
Bolivia	5	1	2	2	9	7	5
Venezuela	6	0	1	5	5	19	1

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LIVE INTERVIEWS

No doubt there will be much talk of the Terry Venables appointment in pubs and clubs around Australia but for mine, it's a great decision, not because he is English as many would suspect, but for the fact that he has seen it and done it all before.

Quite apart from this, he will help to raise the profile of the code in Australia and signal to the rest of the world that the governing body of the sport here are genuinely serious about the commitment they wish to portray. However, had you been listening to 'Soccer Stop' on

Radio UNO last Wednesday night — 1620 AM in Sydney Metro between 8-10pm and associated stations around NSW — you would have heard some very interesting comments from our WA correspondent Richard Kreider on this subject. You would also have heard from Joe Royal, manager of Everton, speaking to us 'live' from the UK even though his side were playing against Liverpool in the great Merseyside derby that evening. NO other radio show, or TV station, if it comes to that, gives you the interviews we are able to bring and we thank all those

who help us to achieve this.

This fact is, many people have differing views on the subject of football in general and the Terry Venables issue and we want to hear them, so please send them to us at the address on top of this page. The best comments, be they serious or satirical, will be read out 'on air' in the coming weeks and the writers will be rewarded with one of our unique 'Soccer Stop' baseball caps. This is a chance for non-NSW readers joining in probably the fastest growing real football show in Australia. Let's have those comments please.



The very tenable Mr V.

MELBOURNE UK CAP RESULTS

The annual UK Cup took place in Melbourne at the weekend and as usual, was a great success thanks to the assistance of Waverley City Soccer Club. The final was contested between two Liverpoolian sides and the results went as follows shown below.

Unfortunately, Celtic Jock Steins, Celtic and Sheffield Wednesday failed to turn up on the day but from all accounts, those who did had a

marvellous time.

Anyone wishing to obtain further information about the events taking place in Melbourne, which are plentiful, please contact: Shaun Tiernan, 301 Carrick Drive, Gladstone Park, Vic 3034 or call on: (03) 9338 3774.

Probably the biggest surprise of the tournament is the poor showing of Manchester City whom I

believe, though I'm always open to being corrected, have won the competition for the past two years. In their three group matches they conceded a massive 10 goals for a return of 4. Oh! and yes Arsenal got stuffed in all three of their matches, quite unlike the proper side but that's the best thing about real football, no-one can predict the outcome and that's why we love the game so much.

BOOK REVIEW

After mentioning the Anew Socceroo manager, it's probably a good time to look at a brand new book, hot off the press this month no less!

All about the perennial fall guy of football, the Gaffer. The book is called: 'I think I'll Manage'.

Written by George Sik, a noted psychologist, and abetted throughout last season by no lesser personages than: Terry Venables, Tommy Burns (Celtic), Walter Smith (Rangers), Joe Kinnear (Wimbledon), Dave Bassett (Sheffield Utd and later Crystal Palace), Mark McGhee (Leicester City and then Wolves), Jim Smith (Derby County) and Alan Smith (Wycombe Wanderers).

"I think I'll manage" compiles the thought of these managers as they endure the footballing year. Seen through their eyes, it gives an insight into what being a manager is all about, the tricks they use and the bare-faced facts of managerial life, "warts and all" as the saying goes. It offers a reflective but informative look.

An ideal Christmas present for the enthusiast without doubt and printed by our good friends at Headline Book Publishing, as with all books mentioned here, walk into any of the major book retailers and order this tome by quoting the following: ISBN 0-7472-1658-4. Extremely well written and most enjoyable. 10 out of 10!

*This brings us neatly onto another book entitled: "David

Ginola — From St Tropez to St James". Written by the man and ably assisted by Amy Lawrence who is a regular contributor to Four-Four-Two and has been with the magazine since its inception.

Many splendid photographs are accompanied by text that explains why Ginola decided to play in England at a time when the whole of EUROPE was alerted to the talents of this likeable Frenchman, quite a journey for the spindly legged lad who cried if a game was called off because of bad weather in his youth.

He grew up near St Tropez and describes how he settled into the very different Tyneside, a million miles away in terms of lifestyle to say the least. From an affluent area of France to the industrial heartland of another nation, he explains how he coped with learning the language and about his first season in the Premier League.

These days, David Ginola is noted for more than just the dazzling footwork he displays on the pitch and has his face regularly splashed across the front pages of fashion magazines and sports journals but is certainly no bimbo, having studied philosophy and showing quite a flair in the kitchen too. ISBN 0-7472-1799-8 is the number to quote. A must for all Geordies and more importantly, those who enjoy the skilful footballer at work and play.

★ ★ ★



David Ginola, exotic St. Tropez

UK CUP RESULTS

GROUP A

Wimbledon 0
Derby 1

Merseysiders 2
Man Utd 0

Newton Heath 0
Chelsea 4

Arsenal 0
Wimbledon 2

Liverpool 0
Man Utd 0

1st Semi
Merseysiders 2
Hibernian 0

GROUP B

Newton Heath 0
West Ham 0

Chelsea 5
Man City 0

Hibernian 0
Derby 0

Hibernian 4
Wimbledon 1

West Ham 1
Chelsea 2

2nd Semi
Chelsea
Liverpool (Winners)

GROUP C

West Ham 4
Man City 1

Arsenal 0
Hibernian 2

Liverpool 0
Merseysiders 0

Arsenal 0
Derby 1

Man City 3
Newton Heath 1

FINAL
Merseysiders (Winners)
Liverpool

Falkirk

BY STUART JONES

Ground: Brockville Park
Address: Hope Street, Falkirk FK1 5AX
Railway Station: Grahamston (100 yards)
Founded: 1876
Admitted to League: 1902
Ground Capacity: 12,800
Seats: 2,661
Pitch Size: 110yd *70yd
Largest Gate: 23,100 v Celtic Scottish Cup 3rd Round 21 Feb 1953
Biggest Win: 12-1 v Laurieston Scottish Cup 2nd Rd 23 Mar 1893
Heaviest Defeat: 1-11 v Airdrieonians Div 1, 28 Apr 1951
Nickname: The Bairns
Colours: Dark Blue with white flashings
Honours: League: Division 2; 1935-36, 1969-70, 1974-75, First Division: 1990-91, 1993-94, Second Division: 1979-80, Scottish Cup Winners: 1913, 1957, B and Q Cup Winners: 1993-94.

History: The club had originally started at Brockville Park, however they moved in 1879 to Randyford, then in 1881 to Blinkbonny before returning to its original ground in 1882. They did not join the League until 1902, unlike neighbours East Stirling. However Falkirk were to become the more prominent club. In 1908 they were runners up in Division One, despite the off field drama of the grandstand burning down. In 1913 they won the Scottish Cup. In the 1920s the Bairns thought about a move again, this time to Bell's Meadows and then to Graeme High School. However in 1928 the Main Stand was constructed at Brockville. The Floodlights were first used for a friendly against Newcastle in October 1953. In 1972 the Wheatley Report into Ground Safety used Brockville as an example of what safety measures could be taken. The ground is hemmed in by cuttings, industry and residential areas. Simon Inglis finishes his summary of the ground with this story (in "The Football Grounds of Great Britain"); Legend has it that a ball kicked over the Hope Street Terrace landed in a passing goods truck and was eventually discovered at Perth, 43 miles up the line. Mighty long kickers, those Bairns. Last season they were relegated from the Premier League and so this year find themselves battling it out in Division One in Scotland.

Weird and Wonderful

1890-91

By STUART JONES

Sunderland played their first season of League football in place of Stoke, who had failed re-election. Everton knocked North End off the top of the table. Sunderland lost two points for unapproved registration of a player yet still finished a respectable seventh. In the FA Cup, third placed Notts County and Blackburn reached the final. Rovers had played only one League team in the run up to the final, whilst County had defeated two. At half time Rovers led 3-0 with goals from Dewar, Southworth, and Townley. Match reports state that County were unlucky not to have scored on a couple of occasions however they were unable to exert any pressure. However Oswald finally scored for County. The best of the backs had been Hendry for County, and the whole backline for Rovers. From a match report. "All through the game the Rovers displayed the better combination and greater resource, and this, to a great extent, was the means of enabling them to carry off the cup for the fifth time."

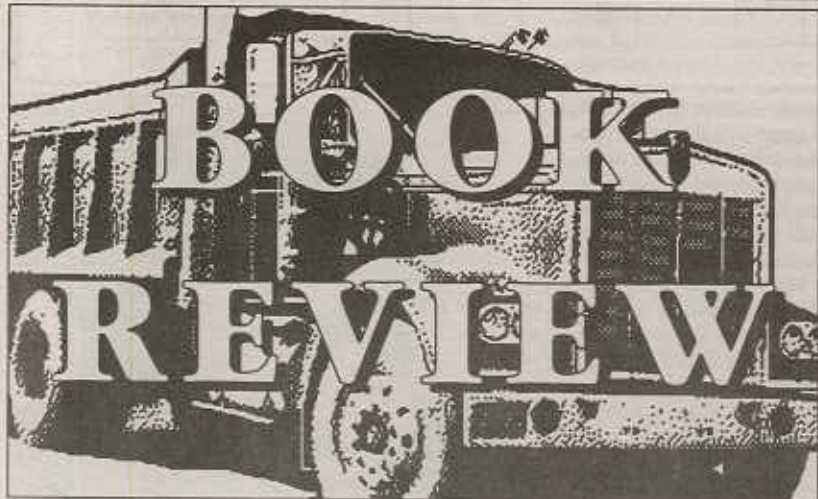
This was the first year of an official League in Scotland. Dumbarton and Rangers finished on 29 points so the title was

LEAGUE TABLE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Everton	22	9	0	2	39	12	5	1	1	24	17	29
Preston NE	22	7	3	1	30	5	5	0	6	14	18	27
Notts Co	22	9	1	1	33	11	2	3	6	19	24	26
Wolves	22	8	1	2	23	8	4	1	6	16	42	26
Bolton W	22	9	0	2	36	14	3	1	7	11	20	25
Blackburn R	22	7	1	3	29	19	4	1	6	23	24	24
Sunderland	22	7	2	2	31	13	3	3	6	20	18	*23
Burnley	22	7	1	3	33	24	2	2	7	19	39	21
Aston Villa	22	5	4	2	29	18	2	0	9	16	40	18
Accrington	22	5	1	5	19	19	1	3	7	9	31	16
Derby Co	22	6	1	4	38	28	1	0	10	9	53	15
WBA	22	3	1	7	17	26	2	1	8	17	31	12

*Sunderland deducted two points for unapproved registration

shared. Third on 21 points was Celtic. the Scottish Cup had been played since 1874, the previous two winners being 1889-Third Lanark, and 1890-Queens Park. 1891 saw Heart of Midlothian take on Dumbarton, the final result seeing Hearts win 1-0 to take the Cup.



By BOB BROOKS

Trev the Truck Scores a Goal

By George Negus and Kirsty Cockburn

☆☆☆

Illustrated by Craig Smith a Puffin Book

Recommended Price \$8.95

A book for the three to six year olds with plenty of action. The story moves on at a good pace, from preparing the playing field in the paddock through the actual game.

Exciting and colourful illustrations by Craig Smith make it a top book for your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews.

Learn how Trev the Truck manages to score the vital goal.

Who said George Negus knows nothing about the World Game. Kirsty Cockburn and George have put together a worthwhile addition to any bedtime reading by adults for littlies.

MAGPIES SETTLE FOR AWAY DRAW

Alan Shearer, back for the first time in a month following injury, scored late in the first half to give Newcastle a 1-1 draw at Chelsea, allowing the Magpies to hang on to first place in England's Premier League.

Shearer brought Newcastle back in the 41st minute after Italian Gianfranco Zola had put Chelsea up 1-0 after 24 minutes.

Shearer, who had a groin operation just 34 days ago, notched his ninth goal to upstage Zola.

Zola, making his home debut and playing only his second game for Chelsea after moving earlier this month from Italian side Parma, claimed his first goal on English soil from a direct free kick.

After a strong first half, the second half broke down into game with few chances marked by the sending off in the 52nd minute of Newcastle's David Batty.

Second-place Liverpool

failed to take advantage and remained a point behind the leaders after being held to a 1-1 home draw by streaking Wimbledon. The result left Wimbledon unbeaten in 15 league and cup games and just four points off the lead with 25 points to 29 for Newcastle. Liverpool has 28.

Stan Collymore gave Liverpool a 1-0 lead in the first minute but Oyvind Leonhardsen of Norway levelled the match in the 67th.

In the day's other key match, defending champion Manchester United played a 2-2 draw at Middlesbrough leaving the Reds with 24 points. It was Middlesbrough's eight straight match without a victory.

Alan Shearer seen right in his Blackburn Rovers days when he became the foremost goalscorer in England.

Newcastle United paid a world record price of \$30 million dollars for his services earlier this year.



SPURS SIGN NORWEGIAN

Premier League club Tottenham signed Norwegian forward Steffen Iversen last week under an agreement reached with his club Rosenborg, the Norwegian news agency NTB reported.

Rosenborg manager Rune Bratseth said negotiations had been completed but he refused to reveal the transfer sum. NTB said the price tag was probably somewhere between \$5.2 million and \$6.2 million making Iversen Norway's most expensive player.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer held the old record when Manchester United paid \$3.09 million for him.

Darren Anderton (right) has a new striker for whom to supply crosses from the wing.



UK STORIES

Gullit exhibits ruthless streak

Chelsea manager Ruud Gullit, attempting to bring the English League title back to Stamford Bridge for the first time in 42 years, exhibited a ruthlessness last week that has been the hallmark of all the great managers of the past.

The former Dutch international has reinforced his squad this season with the signing of Italians Gianluca Vialli, Roberto di Matteo and Gianfranco Zola.

He recouped some of his \$28 million outlay by selling last season's top scorer John Spencer to first division London neighbours, Queens Park Rangers for just over \$5 million.

He also let midfielder Gavin Peacock go to QPR on a month's loan with a view to a permanent \$3.35 million move and let out-of-favour striker Mark Stein rejoin his former club Stoke, also initially for a month.

The South African-born,

30-year-old Stein, who cost Chelsea about \$3 million when he joined them in October 1993, was the third departure from Stamford Bridge in less than 24 hours.

Spencer, last season's top scorer with 13 goals and the fans' favourite at the Bridge, Peacock and Stein had all lost their first team places in Gullit's shake-up but the manager was content to keep them at the club until this week when Spencer criticised him in a newspaper article and Peacock asked for a transfer.

Gullit moved with remarkable speed to release the three, sparking what is likely to be an exodus from the Bridge with David Rocastle, Scott Minto and Frank Sinclair all probably following shortly.

Gullit has also had a row with team captain Dennis Wise, and has made it clear he believes that the good of the team comes before the wishes of individuals in his set-up.



Ruud Gullit: Prepared to wield the axe for Club's betterment.

DONS STAY WITHIN TOUCH

Aberdeen stayed within striking distance of Premier division leaders Rangers and Celtic by taking all three points in a frantic 1-0 win over Hibernian on Saturday.

A Dean Windass goal just before the interval proved enough for third-placed Dons but there was no shortage of incidents in a highly entertaining encounter.

Hibs could consider themselves unfortunate for not taking at least a point from the game which they dominated for long periods.

Scotland striker Darren Jackson missed a handful of good chances and Hibs also had two good penalty appeals turned down.

The first came in the 21st

minute when Jackson's cross appeared to strike Tsanko Tzvetanov's hand but the referee waved away Hibs' appeals.

The home side was further denied when David Rowson apparently brought down Jackson in the area.

Hibs were then caught by a classic sucker punch when the outstanding Ilian Kiriakov picked out Billy Dodds on the right and the striker's low cross was met close in by Windass.

In the only other Premier division clash of the day, Raith Rovers held on for three invaluable points despite a frantic last ten minutes when they lost a goal and had two men ordered off in a 2-1 win at Dundee United.

Raith goal hero Steve Kirk incurred referee John Underhill's wrath when he pulled down Kjell Olofsson before his team-mate Kevin Twaddle was booked twice in two minutes, the second time for throwing the ball away, and was shown the red card.

In between, United had pulled a goal back when substitute Neil Duffy powered a ten-yard header from an Andy McLaren cross past the impressive Scott Thomson.

Raith went ahead in the 24th minute when Norwegian trialist Kent Bergerson saw his 20 metre shot deflected by Steve Pressley and into Lance Key's net before going two up with a 30 metre free kick from Kirk.

POMPEY TO SIGN AUSSIES?

Portsmouth manager Terry Fenwick said today he is hoping the appointment of Terry Venables as the new soccer coach of Australia will spark an influx of top players from Down Under.

Venables, who also became chairman of Portsmouth last Tuesday, is confident that he can handle the demanding

dual role of helping the Socceroos to the 1998 World Cup finals and heading the struggling English first division club.

Fenwick said: "Being chairman of Portsmouth and manager of the Australian side allows him to have the best of both worlds."

"In many ways this might even help Pompey. You never

know, we might end up with a few Aussie players on our books if Terry thinks they are right for us."

Venables still has an option to buy the entire club for a just one pound in a deal agreed with Martin Gregory when he was appointed as director of football earlier this year.

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MATTHAUS BURIES HATCHET WITH VOGTS

Germany's most capped but cantankerous international Lothar Matthaus and national coach Berti Vogts have agreed at a "peace summit" to bury the hatchet in a long-running squabble, the German Football Federation (DFB) said.

Matthaus, 35, who captained Germany to the 1990 World Cup, has never hidden his disappointment at being left out of his country's triumphant Euro '96 squad, while Vogts has become increasingly bitter at Matthaus's constant sniping.

Matthaus earned the last of his 122 caps in December 1994, shortly before he ruptured an Achilles tendon and had to take almost a year off. There is little or no chance that the Bayern Munich skipper will return to the national side, where Borussia Dortmund's Matthias Sammer has made the libero slot his own.

But the meeting appeared to improve the chances for a testimonial match which seemed in doubt while Matthaus was at odds with Vogts and the federation.

SEAMAN CRACKS RIBS

Arsenal's England goalkeeper David Seaman could be out for a month after cracking his ribs for the third time in his career, the Premiership club announced today.

But the 33-year-old, who was voted England's Player of the Year last week, may still be asked to play through the pain barrier on Sunday when Arsenal face bitter rivals Tottenham at Highbury.

Manager Arsene Wenger, though, is losing confidence that Seaman will be able to make the north London derby.

"I am pessimistic at the moment. He has had x-rays but the full extent of the injury is still not clear," Wenger admitted.

QPR spend big

Scotland striker John Spencer has joined London side Queens Park Rangers from neighbours Chelsea for \$5.2 million

Spencer was Chelsea's top scorer with 13 premier league goals last season but has since lost his place to Italy's Gianluca Vialli, who joined Ruud Gullit's side in the summer.

The arrival of Vialli's compatriot Gianfranco Zola has increased the pressure for first team places, prompting Spencer to move to first division QPR.



McCoist hero of Rangers

Ally McCoist broke his four-year Champions' League duck as Rangers' finally awoke from their European nightmare with a 2-1 victory over a weakened Grasshopper Zurich in Glasgow on Wednesday.

Veteran Scotland international McCoist blasted a double against the Swiss, who were missing their leading scorers Murat Yakin and Viorel Moldovan through suspension, to gain revenge for the 3-0 loss in Zurich in September which marked the start of another dreadful European campaign.

The 34-year-old, Rangers' top scorer in Europe, netted a penalty then fired in his second before whipping off his blue jersey in celebration as the Scottish champions bagged their first Champions' League win since March 1993.

His strip earned him a booking from Hungarian referee Laszlo Vagner but McCoist and 34,000 fans didn't care as Rangers' stopped the rot of four straight European defeats this season to Ajax (twice), Grasshopper and Auxerre.

Goalkeeper Andy Gorm even stopped his second penalty in a week to deny the Swiss who could now miss out on a last-eight place as Auxerre won at Ajax. To complete the delight for the Rangers' fans they even saw Grasshopper striker Turkyilmaz booked, apparently for a gesture to the

crowd while taking a second-half corner. The Swiss international striker will miss the final match against Ajax.

Rangers, without the suspended Paul Gascoigne and hamstring victims Brian Laudrup and Joachim Bjorklund, broke the deadlock with McCoist's 66th-minute penalty when Pascal Thuler was adjudged to have handled a cross from Peter Van Vossen.

After waiting more than four years to score at this level, McCoist made up for lost time with a second within six minutes. Jorge Albertz sent him away on the right and the 34-year-old's instincts did the rest with an instant shot beyond Zuberbuhler.

Rangers' goalkeeper Andy Gorm denied Turkyilmaz a few moments later with a spectacular stop from a free-kick but was helpless when sub Jan Berger volleyed home after 76 minutes for a Grasshopper consolation goal.

Rangers' manager Walter Smith was delighted his much-criticised side finally won a match in Europe.

"We are pleased to get the victory. Ally's second goal put us in a good position and then Andy came up with another", Smith said.

"The goal made it a nervy last few minutes, but we are delighted to end the run of defeats. It would have been embarrassing to not win a game in the campaign, but we have done that now."



Ally McCoist: 34 years old as Rangers to victory in Euro Cup.

Scotland Leading Scorers

- | | |
|----|---|
| 10 | Billy Dodds (Aberdeen), Pierre Van Hooydonk (Celtic), |
| 9 | Paul Gascoigne (Rangers) |
| 7 | Paul Wright (Kilmarnock) |
| 6 | Andreas Thoms (Celtic) |

SOUTH MELBOURNE LAKERS



Back Row (L to R): Paul Trimboli; David Clarkson; Warren Spinks; Bill Damianos; Steve Panopoulos; Sasa Nikolic; Jason Polak. **Middle Row (L to R):** Ange Postecoglou (Coach); Alex Kuzmanovic; Con Anthopoulos; Nick Orlic; Fausto De Amicis; Vaughan Coveny; Michael Petersen; Steve Blair (Asst. Coach). **Bottom Row (L to R):** Alex Efsthionou; Tansel Basar; Daniel Allsopp; Michael Petkovic; Michael Curcija; John Paul Knezevic.